

Hafa Adai!

Ex-cop in hit-and-run case gets 5-year sentence. **PAGE 3**

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'We must prove efforts to hire US-eligible workers'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

More than anything else, the burden of showing Congress that the CNMI is doing its part to recruit, hire, and retain U.S. eligible workers falls on Commonwealth employers themselves.

That's according to Marian Aldan Pierce, the guest speaker in yesterday's membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By showing Congress that the CNMI is doing its best to hire U.S. workers, only then will it listen to

See WORKERS on Page 4

CHCC: 4 of 18 nurses to stay

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Fear of violating immigration rules and the lack of specific information on how they could stay without incurring any violations is driving 14 out of 18 nurses to go back to the Philippines despite being eligible for an extension on their CW-1 visas.

After days of waiting, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services finally clarified that a courier receipt showing that USCIS has received the nurses' employment applications is good enough for them

See CHCC on Page 4

CCC prods IPI on labor issues

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission prodded Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) at the last commission meeting that the company should focus on hiring U.S.-eligible workers and be aware of the serious consequences of perjury.

According to CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, the commission is not happy with the human resource management aspect of

See LABOR on Page 4



Division president of DFS Marian Aldan Pierce says, "We must put all efforts to reverse the legislation that will end the CW program in 2019. We cannot sustain the CNMI's continued growth without them."

BEA CABRERA

LibDay fest extended to Saturday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The 2017 Liberation Day festivities will be extended until this Saturday, July 8, in order to maximize revenue for vendors.

The festivities were originally set to end on July 4 after the parade, but were extended because of the harsh weather that messed with the start of the festivities.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, he and the 2017 Liberation Day Com-

mittee decided on the extension as vendors were unable to make a profit off of the first three to four days.

When the *Saipan Tribune* spoke with a few of the Liberation Day food vendors, they said they wasted a lot of food in the first days of the festival because only a few showed up due

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INSIDE



WORLD

A quartet of Arab nations has received Qatar's response to their demands.

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FOCUS

President Trump's meeting with Russian President Putin will have "no agenda."

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LIFE & STYLE

The Marianas International Film Festival is launched in Shanghai.

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Local

Adjusted nurses' salaries seen as a means to keep them

BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is increasing the salaries of nurses to help the islands' lone hospital not only to retain its current nursing staff but to attract U.S.-eligible nurses as well.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said under the proposal, the salary for bachelor of science in nursing graduates will start at \$42,000 a year, an associate degree in nursing with no ex-

perience begins at \$37,000 annually, and a National Council Licensure Examination passer will start at \$37,000 yearly.

"The salary increase is one of the contingency plans that will benefit our workers and ultimately, our community hospital. We were planning on this anyway, but we didn't know we have to do it right now," she said.

Muña is looking at internal resources and identifying available opportunities.

"We are considering hiring retired nurses. We have been working with [Rep.] Jose Itibus to talk about the issue of retired nurses. There is a plan to meet with the health committees of the House and the Senate. We want to be able to bring back the retired nurses who are willing and able to go back and practice their profession."

Muña even has a copy of the names of the retired nurses they are eyeing.

"We have names of those retired nurses for the last five years. We are going to contact them and we want to make sure they would like, can work, and legally [double]

dip," Muña said.

There is a double dipping law that allows retired nurses to work for a limited period of two years after retirement. It allows the retiree to work at another or less tedious position such as outpatient work or engage in part-time work.

"To be able to give them the opportunity to be able to work beyond the two years under the circumstances is a good thing. We have been maximizing a lot of the nurses whenever they leave. We actually pay them, so that is when they 'double dip.'"

"This is precisely the reason why we want to ask [Rep.] Itibus if we can allow these nurses to be able to come back. So if that's possible, that is something we want to work on with Rep. Itibus to basically remove the restriction and change the system so we can have the retired nurses back," Muña said.

CHCC is looking into giving the nurses EB-2 visas that allows those in certain specialized professions—such as doctors, business managers, and educators—who have a master's degree or higher to

gain lawful permanent residence in the U.S.

"It's going to cost us money and we are going to ask the CNMI government to help us with appropriation funds for this. We are in the business of healthcare and we have to invest on the people in order to treat people. We are estimating half a million dollars just to process. If we need to hire a lawyer or for people to do the processing for us, fine. We want to get it done as soon as possible."

"We also want to make sure that nurses are qualified for EB-2, where the processing [time] is from six months to one year. If they do not qualify for EB 2, then maybe we there are some people eligible for H1-B. We will determine which is the best for them. Both statuses are a pathway to getting a green card," Muña said.

Getting the EB 2 visa and H1-B visa comes with responsibilities and commitment.

"There will definitely be changes in the employment contract. We are going to talk to a lawyer from the AG's

See **ADJUSTED** on Page 4

Real estate owner sues IPI, official, others for non-payment of \$100K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An owner of a real estate company is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI LLC) and its executive director and their three other companies for allegedly not paying a \$100,000 broker's fee.

Tim Goodwin, owner of real estate company Pacific Rim International, is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, its executive director Lingli Cai, Imperial Pacific Properties LLC, Ever Harvest Ventures (CNMI) Ltd., and Harvest Ventures Properties LLC.

Imperial Pacific said it strongly believes that Goodwin did not earn the commission he claims and the company will vigorously defend this case and expects to prevail.

Goodwin, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is suing for fraud and breach of contract. He is demanding an unspecified amount of damages and a jury trial.

The lawsuit is assigned to Associate Judge Kenneth L.

Govendo.

Imperial Pacific and co-defendants have yet to answer the lawsuit.

According to Fitzgerald in the complaint, Pacific Rim was retained in 2014 by David W. Dougherty to find a buyer for his property in Garapan, Saipan.

The lawyer said that, in 2014, representatives of Imperial Pacific International, owner of Best Sunshine International, contacted Goodwin to have Pacific Rim assist in securing properties to support its hotel and casino projects.

On Nov. 8, 2014, Goodwin told Dougherty that he had located a buyer who wants to buy the property for \$1.3 million.

The agreement allegedly required the seller to pay a broker's fee of \$100,000 to be paid by the seller to Pacific Rim, resulting in a net to Dougherty of \$1.2 million. The buyer under this agreement was to be Cai or her nominee.

Fitzgerald said no broker's fee was ever paid to Pacific Rim or Goodwin.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Birthday greetings go out to Royce Angelo Ben, who is celebrating his special day today, July 6. No matter how many birthdays come and go, you'll always be our little boy, our greatest pride and joy. Happy birthday, son! We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Ex-cop in hit-and-run case gets 5-year sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former police officer who hit a woman while driving and left her to die as if she was a stray dog was resented yesterday to five years in prison.

Martin Ilo Kapileo was sentenced to five years imprisonment for his conviction of five charges in connection with the hit-and-run case.

"Instead of taking responsibility, you attempted to elude a good Samaritan who wit-

Ex-cop gets 9 months in prison

The federal court has revoked the supervised release of former police officer Florencio Q. Richards and sentenced him to nine months in prison for using drugs and other violations.

At a revocation sentencing on Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona agreed with assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe's and U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola's recommendation to impose a nine-month prison term on Richards, with credit for time served.

David Banes, the court-appointed lawyer for Richards, had recommended a sentence of just three months and supervised release.

Richards was arrested last June 16.

According to Arriola, Richards tested positive during drug tests and admitted to using methamphetamine or "ice" on May 12 and 18 and June 3 and 5 in 2017.

Torres congratulates IPI on casino opening

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres looks forward to the opening of Imperial Pacific Resort's casino, while expecting larger revenue numbers and opportunities for the community once it opens this afternoon.

"It's been a long process that the administration, the attorney general, and [representatives] of Best Sunshine have worked together to make sure that all the regulations are done right," said Torres in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during the Liberation Day festivities last Tuesday.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson expects a larger revenue for the CNMI once the live training facility moves to the Imperial Pacific hotel premises' casino area, which is ready for operation.

"They have more private rooms, tables, and a bigger space. Now, Best Sunshine can claim a building and property that is theirs," said Torres, when asked to comment on

nessed the accident and followed you while calling for other police officers to assist the victim and to arrest you," Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho told Kapileo.

The 55-year-old Kapileo was convicted of failure to stop at a scene of an accident, drinking alcohol while operating a vehicle, restriction upon use of a government vehicle, possession of an open container while operating a vehicle, and failure to exercise due care.

Arriola said Richards also failed to follow instructions about calling in every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and failed to report as instructed to the U.S. Probation Office last June 5, 12, 13, and 14.

Arriola said Richards also failed to report to a group counseling session, individual counseling session, and a drug test last June 3.

Richards, through counsel, admitted the allegations.

In January 2016, Richards was accepted into the Drug Offender Re-entry program. For violating the conditions of his release by using "ice" and other violations, he was sanctioned repeatedly and received prison terms.

In March 2017, Richards was terminated from the DORE program and received a one-month prison term.

In 2011, the federal court sentenced him to 24 months in prison for distributing "ice" while he was still an officer. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

the opening. "I look forward to having better revenue and more employment opportunities for the community."

The IPR casino is set to be open to the public starting today from 5pm onwards. Sources familiar with the matter refers to it as a "transfer of facilities" and describes the event as simply a "continuation of business operation" but at a different location.

A representative from IPR also stated that a formal opening ceremony is to be expected at a later date. The representative failed to disclose specifics.

The IPR casino was granted permission by the Commonwealth Casino Commission to move its live training facility at T Galleria to the IPR premises last June 29, 2017. After the Commonwealth Lottery Commission amended the casino license agreement, which effectively removed the required 250-hotel room requirement to open the casino on the same day, the CCC followed by giving IPR the go-signal to transfer.

Kapileo is eligible for parole.

Camacho did not impose a fine and restitution as Kapileo is indigent and that the victim has already received a judgment of \$60,000 from her lawsuit in federal court.

Camacho said Kapileo hit the woman on the side of the road and left her there as if she was a stray boonie dog.

A sentence of five years imprisonment is appropriate, Camacho said, because Kapileo as a then-police officer had a duty to remain at the accident scene, to offer assistance, and call for medical help.

"Defendant was operating a police vehicle and the victim received serious head injuries. The people of the CNMI entrust police officers with the duty and responsibility to serve and protect," Camacho said.

The judge said Kapileo relies heavily on his medical condition that he is wheelchair-bound to ask to be released immediately.

"To simply release the defendant because of his medical condition would mean that criminals can escape appropriate punishment by simply listing a medical condition," Camacho pointed out.

He noted that based on the presentence investigation report prepared by the Office of Adult Probation, which contained several incidents of theft, domestic violence, and assault and battery when Kapileo was a police officer and his actions on the day of the accident, "it is obvious to the court" that the defendant lacks the integrity and character to be a police officer.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. had recommended a five-year prison sentence. Defense lawyer Brien Sers Nicholas recommended a sentence of time-served and no fine.

The five-year prison sen-

tence that Camacho imposed yesterday is the same sentence that he slapped against Kapileo on July 13, 2013. The only difference now is that there is no fine and that Kapileo can be eligible for parole.

The resentencing was made after the CNMI Supreme Court vacated in April 2016 the five-year prison sentence imposed on Kapileo.

The victim, Mayona S. Bergosa, sustained head injuries in the back of her head after the police truck's right side mirror hit her as she was walking on the grassy side of the road on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Dandan in the afternoon of Oct. 27, 2012.



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LIBDAY

From Page 1

to the rainy weather.

The Liberation Day festivities on July 4 brought many people to the festival grounds. The late afternoon parade leading into the evening festivities made it easier for families to stick around.

In the parade's float competition, the Papago Lancheros float won first place and took home \$4,000.

In second place, the Department of Corrections won \$3,000, while third place went to the Carolinian Affairs Office, winning it \$2,000.

The TanHoldings float was awarded \$1,000 for fourth place.

A total of 12 floats competed.

Aside from the parade, the



The audience listens to performers at the 2017 Liberation Day festivities.

ERWIN ENCINARES

community came out to witness the extraordinary fireworks display that the committee had prepared. According to Apatang, the fireworks show alone was worth \$40,000.

The entire Garapan Fishing Base was packed with families who came out to watch the parade and the fireworks. Families were also camped alongside the roads and beaches as early as a day before the parade.

During the evening program, there was a raffle drawing and over 20 people were able to win prizes.

The three first prize winners were awarded cash prizes at \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place, and \$2,000 for third place.

The first place winner was Soley Kaipat, followed by Alvin Sablan, and Steve Pixley.

A brand new iPhone 7 from

Docomo Pacific was awarded to Angelane Flores.

Other prizes and the winners are as follows:

■ A Club Elan pass from the Hyatt Regency Saipan for two was awarded to Jade F. Mangubat.

■ A \$300 Joeten shopping gift certificate was awarded to Julita Enriquez.

■ A small refrigerator from the Triple J Truckload Store was awarded to The Shack.

■ A Town House dining set was awarded to Novert Ambalan.

■ A \$200 gas gift certificate from Shell Marianas was awarded to the C&R Corp.

■ A one-year Gold's Gym membership was awarded to a ticket that was only named Lisua.

■ A \$200 gift certificate from McDonald's Saipan was awarded to Teresita Matsumoto.

■ A \$100 gift certificate from Pena House was awarded to Jim Sunji.

■ A two-night stay at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan was awarded to Jovan Charfauros.

■ Three months of yard cleaning service from the Handy Helpers was awarded to Sinfrosa Ogo.

■ A one-year subscription to *Marianas Variety* was awarded to Winona Charfauros.

■ A \$100 gift certificate from the Auto Steam Car Wash was awarded to Clarice Mendoza; and

■ A \$100 gift certificate from Regal Theaters was awarded to Redie Dela Cruz.

WORKERS

From Page 1

pleas of Commonwealth employers to be allowed to continue hiring foreign workers, she said.

Pierce, division president of DFS and board member of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., the apparent trend in Washington, D.C. right now is to eliminate guest worker programs like the CW-1 in the CNMI.

"It is upon us to show and to justify the continuation of the CW program," Pierce said.

The decision to end the CW program in 2019 was enacted by Congress in 2014. Pierce said, "We are now in the process to reverse that law."

She recounted that the NMBAC was formed for the promotion of the common economic interests of businesses in the CNMI. The corporation hired a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. to work toward this end and to assist the CNMI administration and business community in its efforts with the CW-1 program.

"During a [call] last week, we made them know that we need to have continuous access to CW-1 workers beyond 2019 but there are concerns among key policymakers in the U.S. Senate that the CNMI community is not doing enough to recruit U.S. workers," Pierce added.

The U.S. Senate has the impression that the CNMI has made very little effort to recruit non-CW-1 workers, which according to the corporation is not true.

"We need affirmative steps to show them that we recruit

not only locally but also from off island. We have to show them that in fact hiring foreign labor is a critical component of the CNMI's growing economy," she said. "We have special and unique circumstances."

Pierce urged all businesses in the community to document all the efforts that have been done and they are still doing in hiring, recruitment and training U.S. citizens.

"We know that there are various efforts that need to be documented. We must carefully document everything that we do to recruit non-CW workers. We need to catalog job ads that was placed in the papers, online with lots of details, how many applied for particular positions, how many were offered jobs, how long did they stay and if they resigned, why did they leave." "Document all job fairs that have taken place or scheduled, with details as to date, time and location. Also, advertisements that have been done beforehand, with pictures. This binder should include recruitment efforts."

She urged businesses to submit to the Chamber office as soon as possible the recruitment efforts in 2016 and 2017. She said the NMBAC will compile all documents for submission to the Office of the Governor and Office of the Delegates.

Pierce said she cannot over-emphasize the need of the CNMI for foreign workers even beyond 2019 for its continued growth.

"It is of utmost importance to show efforts to recruit non-CW-1 workers. We cannot only say it, we have to prove it."

LABOR

From Page 1

IPI on Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that IPI has "committed itself to hiring local and U.S. workers in its operations" and it should live up to that commitment. Also, he cited that the company had initially targeted 65 percent of its manpower to be U.S. eligible workers.

"Sixty-five percent is a very high target, considering the number of local bodies not being there. If they are thinking of hiring over 4,000 workers at the IPR and potentially up to 15,000 workers up to phase 1, there are not enough local people to meet those demands," said Deleon Guerrero. He doubts the population of Saipan would be enough to meet IPI's manpower needs.

"They have initially agreed to a 65 percent target. What the CCC is doing is keeping [the] spirit and letter of the agreement. If you agreed with the CNMI government that you will be having 65 percent,

we want to know why you don't have 65 percent," said Deleon Guerrero.

The IPI workforce currently has 42 percent U.S. workers and 58 percent non-U.S. workers, which still puts it above Public Law 15-108's requirement of 30 percent of employees being U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

IPI warned of possible perjury

Complaints of IPI not entertaining U.S. eligible workers were also brought up at the meeting. According to Deleon Guerrero, there is a requirement under the CW process that requires employers to certify with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that the company could not "find U.S. available workers."

"We want to hold them accountable to that," said Deleon Guerrero.

"If we have a lot of U.S. workers come to the CCC complaining that they have applied and not been entertained, we bring it to the attention of IPI that we have been informed by these applicants,"

said Deleon Guerrero.

"It's a criminal offense if you lie that you cannot find any U.S. eligible workers," he said, urging IPI to take the matter seriously.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that IPI is not required to hire every single U.S. applicant, but it must at least entertain the application.

"...If you are deemed unqualified, then that is a decision the business must make."

Payment disparity

CCC mentioned that they have also received complaints of differences in salaries for positions with the same job descriptions. CCC reportedly received complaints about positions held by individuals who speak other languages earning more than their U.S. counterparts.

Deleon Guerrero said these complaints require investigations before "jumping to conclusions."

But "make sure that the compensation for equivalent positions be fair, consistent, and comparable," he added.

"Because a high number

of their guests are Chinese, it would often require that applicants speak some level of Chinese," explained Deleon Guerrero.

Despite having a predominant Chinese market, Deleon Guerrero urged IPI to keep language requirements to a minimum.

"What we are saying to them is that there may be some positions where language is not really necessary but could be used by the applicants as an excuse to isolate local U.S. workers, that we cannot tolerate," he said.

"If we know this job requires [other skills] and no need for the applicant to be speaking, then perhaps language can either be minimal or [a part of training]," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that the CCC has been urging IPI to conduct Chinese language training for its staff.

"We've been bringing this up with them."

During the meeting, IPI representatives said they would take into consideration the CCC's suggestions and look into these matters.

CHCC

From Page 1

to apply for the 240-day CW-1 visa extensions.

"There is a guideline to be able to avail of the 240-day CW-1 visa extension," said Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña. "One is that we submitted the employment applications of the nurses for [fiscal year] 2018 [and] we did we have evidence of that. Two, their existing CW-1 visas are expiring in 2017, which we know. Third, that they need to have a receipt. We complied with all the requirements, making the nurses eligible for the 240-day extension."

"The fact of the matter is,

everyone should be able to stay. The problem is that when they go out from the hospital and into the community, they hear otherwise," added Muña.

Despite CHCC's efforts to clarify the nurses' immigration statuses, the problem is the community and the kind of information that gets filtered down to the nurses.

"Rather than supporting them, some friends have convinced them that they could get arrested and that they could be barred from working in the CNMI again despite the fact that the 240-day extension rule is clear. We heard also that somebody from USCIS have told the nurses the same thing," Muna said.

One of the concerns that the

nurses have is the lack of coordination between USCIS and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines. The U.S. Embassy in the Philippines is not aware of the 240-day extension they give CW-1 workers in the CNMI and staying beyond visa term is a grave violation.

Muña knows the nurses are going through stressful times. "We committed ourselves to this and we know that the governor, [Delegate Gregorio] Kilili [C. Sablan], and the entire CNMI government supports them, especially the community. We also offered our legal counsel to be with them when they face the consul in the U.S. Embassy. It is hard when they get so stressed and their own family gets so

stressed and concerned about their situation."

"Nonetheless we respect their decision and we are not taking this against them," Muña added.

The four nurses that would stay and work at the emergency room, operating room, neo-natal, and dialysis will help bridge the gap until they get their employment application renewal for October 2017.

"I am very grateful that four of them are willing to stay. I told them that I know this is a difficult decision to them. What I promised to them as a group, we would deliver despite the fact that majority of them have left. So we are going to get them the documents that they asked for," Muña said.

ADJUSTED

From Page 2

[Attorney General's] Office or legal counsel to come out with an agreement that if we are going to process the green card that there is some commitment to CHCC as the employer. The longer you work for CHCC, the easier to pay it back. We are proceeding with this so we won't have any more problem."

The traveling nurses from the U.S. are scheduled to arrive in the CNMI within a week. "We are going to make adjustments in the shift of work. We are working with the medical

staff for acceptable moves in shifts and operations," Muña added.

CHCC is losing 14 nurses due to their CW-1 visa expiration this month and there are expecting more CW-1 visa holders that will go through the same process this year. For its part, CHCC has been continuously working out plans and adding contingencies to prevent similar situations so as not to disrupt hospital operations.

Muña said, "We certainly don't want this to happen to us again next year. We hope to have this issue a non-issue next year. We hope to have all of our nurses and all workers in the hospital intact."

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DPL: Engineer key to moving homesteading forward

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands wants to add seven more positions to its arsenal, including one engineer to speed up the homestead process.

Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo told the House Ways and Means Committee during the department’s budget hearing Monday that they are looking to hire an engineer to hasten the awarding of homesteads in the Com-

monwealth. As of publication, the department is focused on 1991 and 1992 homestead applicants. With a backlog that spans more than 20 years, DPL has yet to address over 2,500 homestead applications on

Saipan, over 190 on Tinian, and over 320 on Rota.

Teregeyo believes that sharing engineers with the Department of Public Works is not as efficient as she wants it to be, and is seeking to hire either a civil engineer or an environmental engineer.

“If we have an in-house engineer, we could have him [or her] design a scope of work and we can issue a request for proposal for it or an engineer can design it and a construction company could come in. The same is applicable for future homestead sites,” said Teregeyo, who also recognizes that there is a bigger backlog of homestead applications compared to the number of recognized sites.

“In order to move forward and plan ahead, we need designs. We are at the mercy of the engineers for DPW, and

they are busy with their tasks [for DPW],” said Teregeyo. “With an in-house engineer and [some time], we would be able to pump out the plans that are at least on the table right now.”

The other proposed positions are mainly administrative ones, Teregeyo said, to help ranking management with their duties and responsibilities.

“We need additional staff for our real estate division, accounting, and more,” she said, adding that the additional staff for accounting is a notch above the priority list and is second only to the engineer.

In order to address these concerns, DPL is looking to ask the Ways and Means Committee for a budget of \$4.85 million, which is also Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ recommendation. DPL got a budget of \$5.1 million in fiscal year 2017.

Unlike other government

agencies, DPL does not get money from the general fund. What is being proposed is more of a predicted expense report since DPL gains funding from money generated by public land leases, while the rest is remitted to the Marianas Public Land Trust for investment.

“[Teregeyo’s] priorities is to focus on the homestead, to make sure we move along the homestead backlog and also to proceed with the homestead program on Pagan,” said Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

Demapan said that Teregeyo also brought up infrastructure as an issue, that the lack of three requirements—access roads, sewerlines, and power lines—also hinder the homestead program.

“That is going to be their priority,” he said, reiterating that 1991 and 1992 homestead applicants are the next in line.



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 20, 2017
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 5/17/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2017-1568: Unity Sense (CNMI), LLC dba Heaven II Hotel is proposing to occupy four existing structures to operate a hotel. This use is classified as “Hotel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22667-2-R1 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.a
2. Conditional Use Application #2017-1686: Seatimes Company Ltd. is proposing to occupy two existing buildings to operate a Bed and Breakfast. This use is classified as “Bed and Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 24 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. Conditional Use Application #2017-2486: Fortune Pacific Corporation is proposing to operate an Amusement, Outdoor Use (Para-Gliding). This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 056 C 116 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

\$15 million made available to ease job hopes of those with disabilities

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Labor made available yesterday about \$15 million in grants for state workforce agencies to develop flexible and innovative strategies to increase the participation of people with disabilities in federally funded employment and training programs.

The grants available are the eighth round of funding in the Disability Employment Initiative, a joint program of the department’s Employment and Training Administration and the Office of Disability Employment Policy. The DEI intends to assist state workforce agencies with strengthening their customer service to adults and youth with disabilities through improved coordination with employers and workforce

system partners.

The funds are intended to enhance grantees’ ability to strategically use a career pathways framework to improve training and employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with disabilities in employment and training services funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in partnership with vocational rehabilitation, community colleges and other education entities, human service agencies and business partners.

Grantees will incorporate the following six career pathway elements into their projects:

- Building cross-agency partnerships and clarifying roles.
- Identifying industry sec-

tors and engaging employers.

■ Designing education and training programs.

■ Identifying funding needs and sources.

■ Aligning policies and programs.

■ Measuring systems change and performance.

The department anticipates awarding approximately eight grants ranging from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million to be spent over a 36-month period. Funding will be provided to at least one project for each of the following two target populations: adults with disabilities (ages 18 and older) and youth with disabilities (ages 14-24).

State workforce agencies interested in applying for this funding should visit <http://www.grants.gov>. (**USDOL**)



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Unity Sense (CNMI), LLC dba Heaven II Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Unity Sense (CNMI), LLC dba Heaven II Hotel is proposing to occupy four existing structures to operate a hotel. This use is classified as “Hotel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22667-2-R1 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: July 20, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 19, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Seatimes Company Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Seatimes Company Ltd. is proposing to occupy two existing buildings to operate a Bed and Breakfast. This use is classified as “Bed and Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 24 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Fortune Pacific Corporation

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Date: July 20, 2017
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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Beijing Air starts Saipan flights today



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VA social worker to visit Saipan

Tiare Peterkin, a licensed clinical social worker and suicide prevention coordinator with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Islands Health Care Systems, will be visiting Saipan for the first time on July 11-12 to conduct outreach among veterans here and train providers on the VA's services and resources for veterans in crisis. (PR)

Family grief support group to meet today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting today, July 6, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, email tcf-saipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit its website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

Joint memorial service on Friday

To commemorate the American and Japanese lives lost during the Japanese Banzai attack on July 7, 1944, during World War II, the public is invited to attend a joint memorial service on Friday, July 7, at 10am at Aqua Resort Club. The memorial service is organized by non-profit organization Kuentai-USA (based in the U.S.) and Kuentai-Japan (based in Japan) and aims to commemorate the history of the event and honor the lives lost. For more information, call at 588-9213. (PR)

AMP to host youth program

The American Memorial Park and Pacific Historic Parks invite Saipan youth ages 6-8 to participate in the "Soldier Skills" summer camp program on July 11-13, from 9am to 12pm. To register your child, stop by the American Memorial Park Visitor Center and complete a registration form. Space for the camp is limited. Applications will be accepted at the park and youths will be enrolled on a first come, first served basis. To learn more, contact Pacific Historic Parks education specialist Jovanalyn Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020 or email jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org or Ranger Brooke Nevitt at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting

registrations for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate (CHCC), updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. (PR)

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. (PR)

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. (PR)

MHS registration ongoing

Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. (PR)

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. (PR)

KHS registration

Kagman High School is ac-

cepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from https://goo.gl/x2KvcL. (PR)

Beijing Capital Airlines will commence offering services between Hangzhou and Saipan today, July 6.

Beijing Capital Airlines extends its sincere appreciation to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Commonwealth Ports Authority for their generous support and assistance.

Beijing Capital Airlines is going to provide scheduled flights from Hangzhou to Saipan twice weekly. Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang province of mainland China with more than nine million residents, is both a leading

economic center and an internationally renowned tourist destination.

Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, where Beijing Capital Airlines flights will originate, is a sophisticated, modern airport that handles more than 30 million passengers every year, both domestic and international.

Beijing Capital Airlines hopes that these new Hangzhou/Saipan flights will build a bridge of friendship between the CNMI and China, promote the CNMI in China as a hot destination for Chi-

nese tourists, and arouse the interests of Chinese investors looking for business opportunities in the CNMI.

Beijing Capital Airlines has been working with CPA on the Hangzhou/Saipan flight project and cherishes the cooperative relationships built between CPA and Beijing Capital Airlines during the last 16 months. Beijing Capital Airlines foresees a bright future in the CNMI, which includes new tourist travelers on Hangzhou/Saipan flights and strong contributions to the CNMI economy. (PR)

开业启示

NOW OPEN

Dear Best Sunshine Live Guests,

We are happy to announce that we will move to our new property, Imperial Pacific Hotel Resort · Saipan and the business will continue as usual on 6/Jul/2017. The new casino will open its door to you from 5p.m. on that day. At the same time, Best Sunshine Live will cease its operations, all chips and slot tickets will cease circulation. Please cash out all your chips and slot tickets before leaving the casino.

After 6/Jul/2017, any Best Sunshine Live chips or slot ticket can be cashed out at Imperial Pacific Hotel Resort · Saipan casino on or before 6/Sep/2017. Best Sunshine Players Club member can bring their Best Sunshine Player Club card and valid ID document to Imperial Club to replace for new Imperial Club card and transfer point balances. Best Sunshine Live chips, slot tickets, and point balances are invalid and voided after 6/Sep/2017.

You are most welcome to visit our new facility and try your luck. See you there!

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC
6/Jul/2017

亲爱的贵宾：

我们的娱乐场将于七月六日迁往博华塞班度假村酒店继续营业。新场是日由下午五时正开始营业，而本场亦于同一时间停止营业，所有本场的各款筹码及电子博彩机现金券亦会即时停止流通，请各贵宾在离场时将全部筹码及电子博彩机现金券兑回现金。

在七月六日或以后仍然持有太平洋娱乐筹码或电子博彩机现金券者，请在本年九月六日之前，携同筹码或电子博彩机现金券到博华塞班度假村酒店的娱乐场兑回现金；太平洋娱乐会员请携带会员证及有效证件到新场博华会换领新证及恢复积分余额，逾期作废。

贵宾光临，请移玉步。

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC
二零一七年七月六日



Imperial Pacific Resort

CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street,
Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: +1 (670) 328-8833
www.imperialpacificsaipan.com



IMPERIAL PACIFIC
RESORT HOTEL · SAIPAN
博华塞班度假村酒店

72nd Liberation Day Parade



Members of the 4x4holics Car Club impress the crowd with their antics. ERWIN ENCINARES



Children of the Saipan Awaodori Team dance to the drumbeats, showing a very well choreographed Japanese dance. BEA CABRERA



Police assist Liberation Day parade grand marshal Clarence Tenorio Sr. get off the vehicle he was on at the front of the Garapan Fishing Base. ERWIN ENCINARES



Families sit comfortably under a big umbrella as they watch the Liberation Day parade. FERDIE DE LA TORRE



The CNMI Domatsuri group is a reliable fixture during the Liberation Day parade. FERDIE DE LA TORRE



A local car club that goes by the name of DMC participated in the parade as well. ERWIN ENCINARES



The Imperial Pacific International Ltd.'s float, made up of fresh flowers and designed to capture the local culture, was a crowd-pleaser during the July 4th Liberation Day parade. IPI's Corporate Social Responsibility team and over 100 IPI employees participated in the parade. IMPERIAL PACIFIC



Two youngsters are out under the sun, watching the colorful and entertaining floats in the parade. BEA CABRERA



A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. vehicle joins the Liberation Day Parade last Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The NMI Museum float is followed closely by a World War II-repurposed vehicle.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section float impresses the crowd with smooth moves.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The Northern Marianas Trades Institute showcased its students during the Liberation Day parade.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Imperial Pacific entertains the crowd with a traditional Chinese lion dance.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Saipan Mayor's Office staff waves to the crowd.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The Department of Corrections float was well-received by the crowd.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The Carolinian Affairs Office float entertain dignitaries with a traditional dance number.



Dancers aboard the ACH Chuuk-CNMI Association float showed off smooth moves.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The CNMI Farmers Association participate in the Liberation Day parade.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The press and the president: Here's how it should work

Ever get the feeling President Donald Trump and members of the news media don't like each other? Trump attacks the credibility of reporters with the same ferocious sloganeering he used to clobber political opponents during the campaign. He defeated "crooked Hillary" and "little Marco." Now he's in a bitter struggle with aggressive journalists—or as he calls them, purveyors of "fake news."

We don't like that phrase, not because we can't take a punch but because his purpose is disingenuous in the extreme, and harmful to American democracy. From a politician's perspective, there may be only two kinds of stories: positive or negative. But journalism is real. Some news reports will get under a president's skin. Some news reports may be inaccurate. That doesn't mean they're fabricated.

A primary role of the news media is to hold government, the White House included, accountable for its actions. Trump's strategy is to strip potentially damaging stories of their significance by heaping them and their organizations on a junk pile so high that all critical coverage gets discredited, at least by people inclined to support him. The approach has antecedents among conservative Republicans who've long suspected too many journalists harbor a liberal bias. Sarah Palin taunted the "lamestream media."

Trump, though, takes news baiting to a new level. He routinely assaults the media despite the fact that as president he has a duty to defend the Constitution ... and thus press freedom. "A few days ago, I called the fake news the enemy of the people, and they are—they are the enemy of the people," he said at a conservative conference in February. Stop the presses, seriously. "Enemy of the people" is a despicable term once used by Stalinists to brand political prisoners; it has no business being deployed by a U.S. president against journalists. In recent days Trump has repeatedly tweeted about "fake news" and on Thursday viciously attacked the hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

Trump's battles with the news media would be less useful to him if the nation were not so politically divided—and if the news media got every story right.

The narrative dominating Trump's early presidency is the investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign. It's driven in part by news reports based on anonymous sources alleging that his associates may have colluded with Russians. No proof has surfaced. The story remains hot because Trump fired FBI Director James Comey, raising the specter of obstruction of justice.

Trump and his supporters don't see a vigorous free press at work here. They see a plot. Conservatives had an "Aha!" moment last year when WikiLeaks released hacked emails showing Washington reporters sucking up to Hillary Clinton campaign chief John Podesta. Suspicions of bias are furthered by botched reporting, including two recent incidents by CNN. The network wrongly predicted what Com-

See **PRESIDENT** on Next Page



Art of breaking bad news

By **TOM ROBERTS**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I practiced the words in my head one more time before I picked up the phone. When my patient's son answered, I froze for a moment, imagining the roles were reversed and I was about to receive the news that I had to give him. After collecting my thoughts, I introduced myself, reminding him that we had met the previous night.

I said: "I'm calling with bad news. Your father's illness worsened this morning. He is going to die. I encourage you and your family to come to the hospital as soon as possible to say goodbye."

My patient's son will probably remember this phone call for years. I still remember everything about it six months later. It was only the third time I'd had to tell someone that their loved one was dying. Looking back on the conversation now, I'm glad that I prepared for it. But I am also concerned to realize that the practical steps I took—get the facts, write out the objective, address my own emotions, prepare for possible reactions, practice aloud—came not from my medical training but from a business-school course on hiring and firing employees.

Like most doctors, I spent four years in medical school learning to treat hundreds of illnesses and help patients manage their health. I spent very little of this time learning how to work with patients when modern medicine runs out of miracles—and only a few hours, spread over four years, learning to lead end-of-life conversations and deliver bad news.

This breakdown is typical of medical education across the country. A recent study of medical curricula, published last year in the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, found that the average time dedicated to end-of-life care is 13 hours spread across multiple courses over four years. In a recent survey of graduating medical students, 42 percent reported that they were never taught how to talk to patients about dying, and 48 percent reported that they never received feedback on how they deliver bad news.

No doubt this is one reason why so many people have personal stories of the "I can't believe my doctor said that to me" variety. Just the other day, I listened as one of my patients described the anger she felt when, days before her husband died of cancer, a doctor checked his phone while they were discussing her husband's treatment.

By contrast, many business leaders direct much of their energy toward mastering the art of difficult conversations. As one of my business school professors liked to say, leadership is all about getting the details right in critical conversations.

Why do medical schools devote so little time to cultivating these communication skills in their students? Few conversations are of greater consequence than those in which a doctor must tell someone their loved one is dying. Our conversational shortcomings in these moments prevent patients from understanding difficult diagnoses, leading some to pursue futile end-of-life treatments that do not increase the quality or duration of their lives.

There isn't one way to teach these skills, but a handful of medical schools are pointing the way forward. Weill Cornell Medical College requires all students to complete a two-week palliative care clerkship. During the course, students are relieved of clinical responsibility so that they can focus on improving end-of-life care. At Stanford University School of Medicine, 20 students a year take *Managing Difficult Conversations*, a class in which students role-play challenging scenarios.

Recently, I found myself on the other side of an end-of-life conversation. My grandmother was in an intensive care unit, and my grandfather called me in a frantic state because he couldn't figure out what was happening.

I called the hospital and got through to a nurse, who relayed every detail: The amount my grandmother's blood pressure had dropped, the number of times she was given epinephrine, the rounds of CPR. After what felt like an eternity, I finally asked: "She died, didn't she?" Her answer: "Yes." The nurse had spent so much time on the details, she had forgotten to tell me the only thing I needed to know.

After I got off the phone, I practiced what I needed to say to my family. Then I called them and said it: "Grandma died."

One of my most respected business professors—someone with more than 60 years of experience in his profession—told me he still practices difficult conversations before he has them. It helps him clarify his goals and the means by which he can achieve them. Medical schools need to teach doctors to do the same.

Tom Roberts is an internal medicine resident at Massachusetts General Hospital. He received his MD/MBA from Stanford University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saving money when you shop

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By **MICHAEL J. CYGANEK**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on how consumers can save money while shopping.

You can save money when you shop if you compare prices at different stores, use coupons, think about whether you really want something, and ask questions.

How do I start saving?

Before you buy something, ask yourself:
Have I:

- looked for coupons?
- checked the price at more than one store?
- asked about when it might go on sale, or thought about waiting for a sale?
- thought about what else I might spend my money on if I do not buy it?

When I find a good deal, should I buy the product?

Maybe you should buy it. Maybe not. Before you buy, think about whether this is the right deal for you. Ask yourself:

- Am I buying this just because it is on sale?
- Do I really want or need this thing?
- Can I afford this product, even on sale?
- Do I want to buy it, even if it adds to my credit card debt?

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program (a.k.a. "The Consumer Caution Corner") shares FTC and/or Federal Communications Commission publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is the consumer counsel at the Office of the Attorney General.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerns about LibDay royal court

Hopefully, the voicing of my experiences with this year's committee can serve as an important lesson to all future CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court candidates and their parents.

Issues of concerns:

1. Time deadline: As a candidate parent, I was told that all tickets had to be submitted by 5pm Friday, the 30th of June, the due date. Late submission will disqualify a candidate from winning, but a candidate can still be a participant in the Royal Court celebration. However, this was not the case, even though the participants and parents were told this verbally by the chair.

2. Courtesy acknowledgement: Even though I pulled my daughter out of the event because of how I felt in regards to the unfair practices I perceived, she should have been acknowledged for the monetary contributions she brought in, most especially because of the hard work my family, relatives and friends did to aid in her candidacy.

I want the nonprofit organizations or charities identified by the Saipan Mayor's Office and the committee as benefactors of the candidates' hard work to be made aware of who their monetary donors were. If all the members of all the committee—as I was informed by the mayor—are volunteers, then I can firmly avow that my families and friends volunteered for this year's event also!

3. Race and unfair practices: It is very sad that we are ignorant of these practices, which are still going on! I work hard to earn a living, but my ethnicity, being a Refalawasch, not having any political influences, still plays a major role in decisions made involving a celebration of our freedom and civil rights of an individual.

These issues and concerns must and need to be addressed, if candidates of this event are to be treated equally and fairly in the future.

Next year's Liberation Day Royal Court Committee must work collectively to better inform and communicate with parents and the candidates, the rules and procedures, and misunderstandings or misinterpretations clarified fully to the participants to avoid any misunderstandings. As an indigenous person of our

island, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana, I want to share this experience with the 2017 Liberation Day Royal Court Committee, the mayor, and most especially to future candidates and their parents so they are made aware that unfair practices and unequal treatments do exist.

If you plan to join next year's event, make sure you are provided a legal document that details the rules, procedures and regulations you and the members of the committee need to abide by. Read the document, make sure you fully understand the contents before you or your parents agree to sign! Any ambiguous words like "may" should be questioned and clarified, it may be used by the committee against you should you decide to speak up or raise some questions.

The CNMI has been celebrating Liberation Day for decades. I do not understand why there is no formal written document provided by the Mayor's Office for parents and candidates to sign if this event is celebrated annually. Obviously there were no documents stating the guidelines for the young women who participated in previous years. This "mistake" that the Mayor's Office and the committee made this year is unacceptable to me.

Yes, we all make mistakes and as human beings we learn and should learn from them! But when racism, corruption, and favoritism are so obviously displayed and seen so clearly from others' actions, and plays a major role in the determination of a candidate's status, one must speak up! This kind of practice and behavior needs to be stopped! Rules verbally stated and communicated are perceived, understood, and adhered to as they are communicated. We are not all proficient in the English language and can understand or get the gist of what is being communicated. Thus, you need to be an English language major to understand what the Royal Court committee is trying to convey to you! And then to be contacted by the mayor's office a day after the counting deadline and be told that "the candidates that were late will still be ranked after being told otherwise by the committee chair showed preferences

Sonya-Jane Olopai

ChloeAnn's mom

For the love of family

"Having somewhere to go is home. Having someone to love is family. Having both is a blessing."

Last Saturday, July 1, 2017, the "Karabao" Quitugua family start-

ed off their family reunion with the offering of the Holy Mass at San Jose Church, officiated by Fr. James S. Balajadia. Immediately after the Mass, family members gathered at the Garapan Central Park for lunch and genealogical tracing introductions.

Gracing the family reunion was the presence of two surviving fourth generation patriarch of the Karabao clan, Nan Elang Quitugua and Nan Nita Aguon. Being with several generations of family roots was indeed a solemn moment and truly a blessing.

Such event and opportunity would probably not have happened without the persistence, patience and determination of a group of grand and great grandchildren. For almost two years, this committee of bright and dedicated young men and women endured frustrations, disappointments and emotional breakdown as they went about with their planning. They argued amongst themselves, to the extent that I thought the reunion may not take place at all.

Amazingly, however, they remained focused and resolved to take their planning to the finish line, and indeed they made what was seemingly an impossibility possible. I owe these committee members my profound appreciation and deepest respect for making it possible for the "Karabao" family to finally be together in one place. Nothing is more precious in a lifetime than to be together with your extended loved ones. What an astonishing and priceless experience! Of all the events in my life, the reunion of our family was my "Terms of Endearment," a poignant moment to forever remember.

To all the "Karabao" Quitugua family reunion committee members, volunteers and sponsors, I can't thank you enough for your perseverance and sacrifices. I can only hope that the resounding accomplishment of your devotion will bring intrinsic meaning to your efforts in successfully reuniting our family.

I must not forget to mention our amazingly talented emcee. Quite honestly, I was completely mesmerized by his vocal renditions of many popular local favorite songs. That was a sucker for me, but now I finally figured out what was the "fatal attraction" quality that my niece Rocca was drawn to. Rep. Vinny, you sure mixed it well for the enjoyment of our family. Thank you!

I took home with me a statement that was whispered in my ears by one of the nephews just as we were parting ways. He said, "Uncle Dan, don't ever forget that family is just like branches of a tree, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one." What an overpowering descriptive valediction message.

On behalf of our families, let us all rejoice over the privilege of life.

Daniel O. Quitugua

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

PRESIDENT

From Page 10

ey would tell a Senate hearing, then retracted a report linking a Trump campaign official to Russia. CNN apologized and three journalists resigned, but Trump didn't quit his attacks. Neither did spokesperson Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who said the president is frustrated with the "constant barrage of fake news."

Antagonism between presidents and the news media isn't new. President Richard Nixon, whose administration maintained an enemies list, assailed *The Washington Post's* Watergate coverage. When reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein messed up a story, White House spokesman Ron Ziegler pounced: "I personally feel that this is shabby journalism by *The Washington Post* ... based again on anonymous sources."

He went off on the *Post* for a full half-hour. "We have had a long run of these types of stories presented by this particular newspaper, a newspaper once referred to as a great newspaper ..." he chided. Sounds familiar.

At least Ziegler distinguished between his slap-down of the *Post* and his general respect for the news media. Trump takes no such care. The danger is that his disrespect corrodes trust, weakening journalism's effectiveness as watchdog on government. If the public tunes out, or reporters pull back from pursuing stories because the risks are too high if they err, the country is worse off.

Calling for a truce isn't necessary; reporters and government officials are often adversaries, due to their different roles. There are ground rules to these relationships, though: The news media have a responsibility to be fair and accurate, and correct errors

when they happen. CNN's decision to retract the Russia story and part ways with three employees reflect a commitment to do the right thing. Public officials have a responsibility to be honest and to respect journalists' job as the public's eyes and ears. Some Trump administration decisions, such as banning cameras from some briefings, disdain that purpose.

The key is that little is owed directly from the White House to reporters, or vice versa. They aren't responsible to each other. Both owe allegiance to the American people. Conflict between the press and the president shouldn't be about which wins. It should be about serving the nation's democratic values and traditions.

And by the way, Ziegler eventually apologized to the *Post*.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

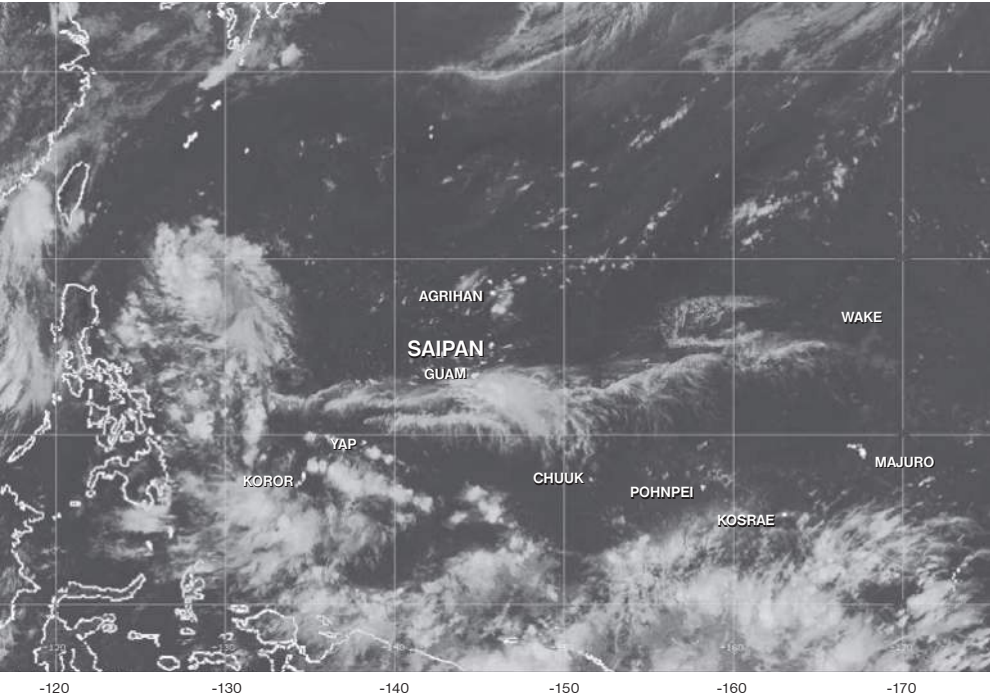
▲88° ▼78°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:04 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Expect the thunderstorms to end after sunrise as diurnal min sets in and upper winds become less favorable. The rest of the forecast remains the same as the previous one, with enough moisture to support isolated thunderstorms through Saturday night. In the marine zones, moderate trades are still expected to become gentle by Friday, with slowly falling seas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲▼°F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	59° / 48°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
London	Thunderstorms	82° / 64°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
New York	Cloudy	77° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	90° / 68°
Busan	Thunderstorms	79° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°
Salem	Sunny	93° / 74°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 52°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:53 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.82
12:23 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.05
7:20 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.65
-	-		-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:23 AM	4:26 PM
Friday	-	4:07 AM	5:14 PM
Saturday	-	4:53 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	-	5:41 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	-	6:31 AM	7:38 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2017									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7			TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily			LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7			7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5			7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)						HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1			JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4			JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily			DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM			PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM			UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4			UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM						
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			U042	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			U042	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM			U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
						U042	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
						U042	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
						UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW T'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily		1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily	
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily		1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily		1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily		1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily		1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily		TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
ROTA TO GUAM					FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily		2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	
GUAM TO ROTA					2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily		2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily		2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily		2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	
					2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	
					2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	

PH consular outreach on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, in coordination with Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago, wishes to announce that the schedule for biometrics cap-

turing of the e-passport applications is now available.

A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will be on Saipan on July 10-13 (Monday to Thursday), at

the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for biometrics capturing of e-passport applications.

Those who wish to renew their passport, submit their ap-

plication at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg D, second floor, top of the mini-mart store, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (12pm-1pm break time). All e-passport applications require

“personal appearance.” Wear proper attire (shirt with collar).

Applicants on the list are advised to be present at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule. Those who have scheduled appointment for renewal/application of passport are enjoined to appear and not

to miss this chance. Otherwise they will have to wait for the next mobile outreach.

For more information and confirmation, call (670) 233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos. To verify if you are on the list, go to <https://www.facebook.com/PCGAgana/>. (PR)

Rotary plants trees in Kagman park



The Rotary Club of Saipan starts off the Rotary Year, which began July 1, by planting trees at the Kagman Family Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In celebrating this year's Rotary International theme of “Rotary: Making a Difference,” the Rotary Club of Saipan started off the Rotary Year (which began July 1) by planting trees at the Kagman Family Park.

Ian Risley, president of Rotary International, asked all 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide to plant at least one tree for each member in order to promote the greening of the earth and environmental sustainability.

With support from Rep. Lorenzo Guerrero and the Division of Forestry, trees were donated to the Rotary Club of Saipan for planting at the Kag-

man park.

Guerrero's staff, along with the Rotary youth service groups—the Interact Clubs of Kagman High School and Marianas High School—joined with Rotarians to plant 36 trees throughout the park.

Once open, the Kagman Family Park, located next to the Kagman Community Center, will offer a range of playground equipment including swings, hopscotch, climbing tires, and balance beams for the Kagman community to enjoy.

In addition, a full size basketball court was created to meet International Basketball Federation standards in



Rep. Lorenzo Guerrero's staff, along with the Rotary youth service groups—the Interact Clubs of Kagman High School and Marianas High School—join Rotarians to plant 36 trees throughout the Kagman Family Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the hopes that the court will also be used in future competitions.

“We plan to plant additional trees throughout the park in order to provide shade and decoration for all to enjoy,” said Greg Borja, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Saipan. “In keeping with the goals and focus of Rotary, we are reaching out to serve our communities here on

Saipan. I would like to thank the Interact students, [Rep.] Guerrero, and the Division of Forestry. Without their support and assistance, this tree planting project would not have been an easy task.”

Guerrero said he is also collaborating with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the connection of lights to the basketball court and repainting of the exterior

of the Kagman Community Center prior to the opening of the park next month.

“I have also discussed with several community members to begin recruiting and organizing teams of school-age children and potentially begin a league right at the opening of the park,” Guerrero said. “I have also written letters to the Kagman business community to...[sponsor] sports

teams, [adopt] bus shelters and roads, [spruce] up parkways, [pave] parkways and [plant] shade trees and flowers within their parkways.”

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be planting additional trees during the Kagman Family Park's grand opening in August to coincide with the annual visit of Rotary District 2750 governor Sawatari Masamori. (PR)

Group toured aboard vessel off Saipan Lagoon

The Guam-CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, and the Military Sealift Command hosted a “Bosslift” on June 20, 2017, during which employers and government leaders were treated to a tour of the USNS *Soderman*, a prepositioned ship of the MSC off the Saipan Lagoon.

The group was given a three-hour tour of the vessel and its cargo. They were also given a brief on the mission of the ship in support of the U.S. military anywhere they may be in the world. The group got to see firsthand how some of their Guard or Reserve employees spend their weekends away from their civilian jobs.

ESGR seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. ESGR



Front, from left, Rose Igitol, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Guam-CNMI volunteer; Jose Kaipat, Division of Environmental and Coastal Quality; William Gilmore, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; Oscar Torres, Military and Veterans Affairs Office; Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo; Elaine Apatang-Butts, guest; and Joann Aquino, ESGR Guam-CNMI volunteer. Back, from left, Juan Diego Tenorio, American Red Cross - CNMI Chapter; Valentina Haberman, Hyatt Regency Saipan; and Aniceto Ogumoro, Department of Public Safety.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve service

by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support,

increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their

service members, and acting as the employers' principal advocate within DoD.

For more information about

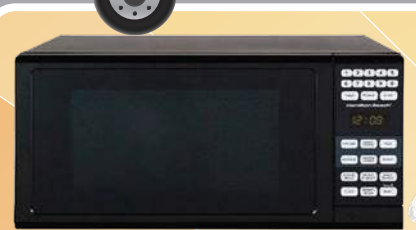
ESGR outreach programs or volunteer opportunities, call 735-0456 or visit www.ESGR.mil. (Saipan Tribune)



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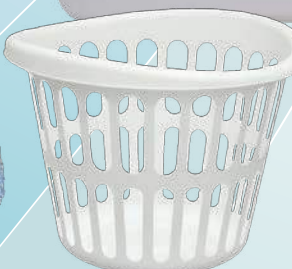


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DAHDOL - SHAGGY DADDY 3PC BATH SET **\$10⁹⁵**



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Business

Italy's rescue plan for bank gets EU approval

MILAN (AP)—Italy's finance minister said Tuesday the plan to restructure the struggling bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena will provide "a credible future" for the institution while ensuring stability to the Italian banking sector.

Minister Pier Carlo Padoan made the comments after the European Union's executive commission approved Italy's plans to inject 5.4 billion euros (\$6 billion) into the world's oldest bank as part of a five-year restructuring plan that the bank's management will outline to investors on Wednesday.

Italy's banking system has been weighed down by a heavy load of bad loans due to a prolonged crisis in the eurozone's third-largest economy coupled with management issues.

Besides the Monte dei Paschi rescue, Padoan has been ushering through a plan to

save two cooperative banks in the productive northern Veneto region, where account holders have lost billions of euros.

The Commission cleared the Monte dei Paschi capital injection only following the contribution of 4.3 billion euros from the bank's shareholders and junior creditors, as required by EU rules meant to minimize the cost of bailouts for taxpayers.

Once the operation is complete, the Italian government will hold a 70 percent stake in the bank. Padoan said he expected that Italy will be repaid its investment in full, with some returns, although he didn't specify by when and how much.

"The rescue is an extremely important element for the bank and the Italian banking system, and another sign of a turnaround after the agree-

ment last week on the Veneto banks," Padoan told a press conference. "It is a plan that provides certainty and a sustainable future to the bank that will have a very important capital level."

The capital injection is intended to give the bank a buffer in case of worsening economic conditions. The restructuring includes moving more than 26 billion euros in soured loans off its balance sheets, according to the EU Commission.

Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said the capital injection "should protect financial stability in Europe and limit the burden on taxpayers."

Padoan also expressed confidence that the Italian parliament would approve the decree to save the two Veneto banks.

Soy 'milk'? Even feds can't agree on terminology

NEW YORK (AP)—Dairy farmers want U.S. regulators to banish the term "soy milk," but documents show even government agencies haven't always agreed on what to call such drinks.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture "fervently" wanted to use the term "soy milk" in educational materials for the public, according to emails recently released in response to a lawsuit. That irked the Food and Drug Administration, the agency that oversees the rule defining milk as coming from healthy cows.

It's "not a trivial decision," the FDA warned in one of the 2011 emails about the USDA's desire to use the term.

The sour history over who gets to use "milk" reaches back to at least 1997, when a soy foods group petitioned the FDA to recognize the term "soymilk." A couple of years later, the group pointed out that the FDA itself had used the term. Even now, the

National Milk Producers Federation says it's working to build support for legislation directing the FDA to enforce the federal standard. The dairy group says both "soy milk" and "soymilk" are inappropriate ways to describe non-dairy drinks made from soybeans, and that the one-word version is just an attempt to get around the definition.

There are plenty of other food names at issue. A European Union court recently ruled that a company named TofuTown can't describe its products as "cheese." U.S. rice producers have railed against "pretenders" like diced cauliflower and said they may take the issue to the FDA.

But the FDA hasn't even always been able to get other agencies to go along, as illustrated in the emails obtained by the Good Food Institute, which advocates alternatives to industrial animal agriculture. The GFI sued the FDA for public records relating to soy milk.

The email exchange started when a nutrition adviser at the Department of Health and Human Services alerted the FDA that the USDA planned to use "soy milk" in educational materials about dietary guidelines.

"USDA staff are preparing consumer publications and fervently want to use the term 'soy milk' because beverages are widely marketed this way," the adviser wrote.

The FDA bristled and provided the federal definition of milk as a "lacteal secretion" from cows. Therefore, the FDA declared that referring to soy, almond and rice drinks as "milk" would be incorrect. It suggested the other agency say "beverage" or "fortified beverage."

When that didn't put the matter to rest, the FDA warned that the USDA's use of the term could undermine the FDA's regulatory authority.

That apparently didn't stop the USDA, either.

Trudeau: Trump, Brexit mean new chances for Canada, Ireland

LONDON (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday that his country and Ireland should seize the opportunity to be open and progressive as their big neighbors, the U.S. and Britain, turn inward.

Trudeau said there are "tremendous opportunities for countries like Canada and Ireland at a time where perhaps our significant allies and trading partners ... are turning inward or at least turning in a different direction."

He said the two nations should "make the pitch that

Canada and Ireland are places that are exciting and open to the world in a positive, progressive way."

Trudeau spoke after meeting Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in Dublin. Both leaders face tricky times with their neighbors—the U.S. under President Donald Trump and the U.K. as it leaves the European Union.

The two politicians are among a crop of young, centrist Western leaders seen by some as a counterweight to the populism that fueled Trump's election victory and Britain's

decision to leave the EU.

Varadkar said "more and more people will want to come to Ireland" because of Brexit. Dublin hopes to lure financial institutions from London after Britain quits the bloc.

Varadkar wore colorful maple leaf socks for Tuesday's meeting, in a salute to Trudeau's fondness for bold, statement ankle-wear.

Trudeau travels to Scotland Wednesday to meet Queen Elizabeth II, and is due to attend a summit of G-20 leaders in Hamburg, Germany on Friday and Saturday.

Nation

US schools rethink meal-debt policies that humiliate kids



In this Thursday, May 4, 2017 photo, second grade students Angelina Lopez, left, and Nasim Hamdouni, right, enter a student account code to track lunch purchases at Gonzales Community School in Santa Fe, N.M.

AP

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Teaching assistant Kelvin Holt watched as a preschool student fell to the back of a cafeteria line during breakfast in Killeen, Texas, as if trying to hide.

"The cash register woman says to this 4-year-old girl, verbatim, 'You have no money,'" said Holt, describing the incident last year. A milk carton was taken away, and the girl's food was dumped in the trash. "She did not protest, other than to walk away in tears."

Holt has joined a chorus of outrage against lunchroom practices that can humiliate children as public school districts across the United States rethink how they cope with unpaid student lunch debts.

The U.S. Agriculture Department is requiring districts to adopt policies this month for addressing meal debts and to inform parents at the start of the academic year.

The agency is not specifically barring most of the embarrassing tactics, such as serving cheap sandwiches in place of hot meals or sending students home with conspicuous debt reminders, such as hand stamps. But it is encouraging schools to work more closely with parents to address delinquent accounts and ensure children don't go hungry.

"Rather than a hand stamp on a kid to say, 'I need lunch money,' send an email or a text message to the par-

ent," said Tina Namian, who oversees the federal agency's school meals policy branch.

Meanwhile, some states are taking matters into their own hands, with New Mexico this year becoming the first to outlaw school meal shaming and several others weighing similar laws.

Free and reduced-price meals funded by the Agriculture Department's National School Lunch Program shield the nation's poorest children from so-called lunch shaming. Kids can eat for free if a family of four earns less than about \$32,000 a year or at a discount if earnings are under \$45,000.

It's households with slightly higher incomes that are more likely to struggle, experts on poverty and nutrition say.

Children often bear the brunt of unpaid meal accounts. A 2014 federal report found 39 percent of districts nationwide hand out cheap alternative meals with no nutritional requirements and up to 6 percent refuse to serve students with no money.

The debate over debts and child nutrition has spilled into state legislatures and reached Capitol Hill, as child advocacy groups question whether schools should be allowed to single out, in any way, a child whose family has not paid for meals.

"There's no limit to the bad behavior a school can have. They just have to put it in writing," said Jennifer Ramo,

executive director of New Mexico Appleseed, an advocacy group on poverty issues. "We live in a credit society. I think schools should handle debt like everybody else does: You don't take away food from children. You feed them and you settle the bill later."

Spurred by Appleseed and others, New Mexico in April passed its anti-meal-shaming law, which directs schools to work directly with parents to address payments and requires that children get a healthy, balanced meal regardless of whether debts are paid on time.

Elsewhere, the California Senate in May unanimously approved a bill that prevents schools from denying lunch if a parent or guardian has not paid.

Theresa Thomas, a Los Angeles Unified School District food service worker for students with severe physical and learning disabilities, grinds up complimentary cheese sandwiches in a food processor to serve through feeding tubes to students who don't bring lunch and whose parents have not paid.

"They're not able to complain too much," she said. "We should give them all the same food, and we should collect the money as much as possible."

Texas recently adopted a temporary grace period for students to keep eating cafeteria food while debt payments are negotiated with parents.

Asia

N. Korea vows not to abandon nukes tests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Grinning broadly, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delighted in the global furor created by his nation's first launch of an inter-continental ballistic missile, vowing Wednesday to never abandon nuclear weapons and to keep sending Washington more "gift packages" of mis- and atomic tests.

U.S. and South Korean forces, in response to Tuesday's launch, engineered a show of force for Pyongyang, with soldiers from the allies firing "deep strike" precision missiles into South Korean territorial waters. South Korean President Moon Jae-in ordered the drills arranged with the United States to show "North Korea our firm combined missile response posture," his office said.

A North Korean test of an ICBM, confirmed later by U.S. and South Korean officials, is a momentous step forward for Pyongyang as it works to build an arsenal of long-range nuclear-armed missiles that can hit anywhere in the United States. The North isn't there yet—some analysts suggest it will take several more years to perfect such an arsenal, and many more tests—but a successful launch of an ICBM has long been seen as a red line, after which it would only be a matter of time—if the country isn't stopped.

Worry spread in Washington and at the United Nations, where the United States, Japan and South Korea requested a U.N. Security Council emergency session, to be held later Wednesday. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the U.S. response would include "stronger measures to hold the DPRK accountable," using an acronym for the nation's formal name, the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea.

The uproar only seemed to inspire the North, whose propaganda machine rarely fails to aggrandize its leader and its military or to thumb its nose at rivals Seoul and Washington.

A report in its state media Wednesday described leader Kim as "feasting his eyes" on the ICBM, which was said to be capable of carrying a large nuclear warhead, before its launch. "With a broad smile on his face," Kim urged his scientists to "frequently send big and small 'gift packages' to the Yankees," an apparent reference to continuing the stream of nuclear and missile tests Kim has ordered since taking power in late 2011.

The North was also pleased that its test came as Americans celebrated Independence Day. Kim, the state media report said, told "scientists and technicians that the U.S. would be displeased to witness the DPRK's strategic option as it was given a 'package of gifts' incurring its disfavor by the DPRK on its 'Independence Day.'" The North has a history of conducting weapons test on or around July 4.

Kim reportedly "stressed that the protracted showdown with the U.S. imperialists has reached its final phase and it is the time for the DPRK to demonstrate its mettle to the U.S., which is testing its will in defiance of its warning."

The test, North Korea's most successful yet, is a direct rebuke to President Donald Trump's earlier declaration that such a test "won't happen!"

A U.S. scientist analyzing the height and distance of the launch said the missile could potentially reach Alaska.

North Korea's Academy of Defense Science, in a bit of hyperbole, said the test of

what it called the Hwasong-14 marked the "final step" in creating a "confident and powerful nuclear state that can strike anywhere on Earth."

South Korea's Defense Ministry, in a report to lawmakers, tentatively concluded that North Korea test-fired a "new missile with an ICBM-class range" of more than 5,500 kilometers. But the ministry said it's not certain if the test was successful because Seoul couldn't verify if the North has mastered re-entry technology for an ICBM. The ministry said North Korea may now conduct a nuclear test with "boosted explosive power" to show off a warhead to be mounted on a missile.

The launch sends a political warning to Washington and its chief Asian allies, Seoul and Tokyo, while also allowing North Korean scientists a chance to perfect their still-incomplete nuclear missile program. It came days after the first face-to-face meeting between Trump and Moon and ahead of a summit of the world's richest economies.

Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, a former commanding officer of the British Armed Forces Joint Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Regiment, said that "in capability of missile terms and delivery, it is a major step up and they seem to be making progress week-on-week." He added, however, that "actually marrying the warhead to the missile is probably the biggest challenge, which they appear not to have progressed on."

North Korea has a reliable arsenal of shorter-range missiles and is thought to have a small number of atomic bombs, but is still trying to perfect its longer-range missiles.

boring Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos returned home, fearing they could be imprisoned for up to five years for not being properly registered. Many may have been dismissed without compensation by their Thai employers, who would be subject to fines of up to 800,000 baht (\$23,500) for employing unregistered workers.

Mob in western Myanmar kills Rohingya despite police guards

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A mob in Myanmar's western Rakhine State has killed a member of the Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority who

had been on a police-guarded trip from the displacement camp where he lives to the city that many Rohingya were forced to flee five years ago. The dead man was one of seven given a ride Tuesday by police to the dock area of Sittwe, the Rakhine capital, to purchase some boats. The Rohingya are normally confined to the camp, and police provide rides in a closed truck to both restrict and protect them. Police and one of the men said the group was attacked by at least 100 members of the Buddhist Rakhine ethnic group, whose violent assaults in 2012 drove most Rohingya residents from their Sittwe homes.

World

Qatar responds to Arab demands

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A quartet of Arab nations said early Wednesday they had received Qatar's response to their demands for ending a diplomatic crisis gripping the Persian Gulf, just ahead of a planned meeting in Cairo.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates said in a joint statement they would respond "in a timely manner." The countries did not elaborate on what steps they could take, though a major credit rating agency warned it had changed Qatar's economic outlook to negative over the turmoil.

The countries cut ties to the FIFA 2022 World Cup host early last month over its alleged support for extremist groups and ties with Iran. Qatar denies supporting extremists and has defended its warm relations with Iran; the two countries share a massive undersea natural gas field.

The nations issued a 13-point list of demands on June 22, giving Qatar 10 days to comply. They later extended the deadline by another 48 hours at the request of Kuwait, which has acted as a mediator to resolve the crisis. That deadline expired early Wednesday morning.

Later Wednesday, foreign ministers from the four Arab countries will meet in Cairo to discuss their next move. Late Tuesday, Egypt's state-run MENA news agency reported intelligence agency chiefs from those countries had met in Cairo, likely discussing the crisis.



A black-and-white depiction of Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, attracts signatures and comments of support from residents amid a diplomatic crisis between Qatar and neighboring Arab countries in Doha, Qatar, on Monday, July 3, 2017. AP

What Qatar said in response to the demands remains unclear. It already had called the demands, which include shutting down its Al-Jazeera satellite news network, expelling Turkish military forces based in the country and paying restitution, as an affront to its sovereignty.

The crisis has become a global concern as neither side appears to be backing down. Qatar, the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, hosts some 10,000 American troops at its sprawling al-Udeid Air Base. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been trying to ease tensions, while President Donald Trump's comments on Qatar funding extremist groups back the Saudi-led countries' position.

The nations could impose financial sanctions or force Qatar out of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a regional body known as the GCC

that serves as a counterbalance to Iran.

Some Arab media outlets have suggested a military confrontation or a change of leadership in Qatar could be in the offing, but officials have said those options are not on the table.

On Tuesday, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel visited officials in both the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. He said Germany supported the UAE's efforts at confronting those who fund extremists.

"We now have this opportunity to reach good results for the benefit of the whole region. The matter is not related only to the sovereignty of Qatar," Gabriel said. "We have to come back to common work at the GCC and for the Europeans this is a very important matter. For us, the GCC is the guarantor of stability and security in the region."

More families fleeing Central America resettling in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The armed, masked gang members showed up on a motorcycle at the home in northern Honduras last fall with a stark warning for the occupants: Leave town within 24 hours, or else.

Laura Maria Cruz Martinez, another single mother and the nine kids in their care hurriedly threw clothing and personal items into bags and made for the border before dawn, their home abandoned with the furniture and appliances left in place.

Nine months later they're together again in two adjacent apartments in a working-class neighborhood of eastern Mexico City. It hasn't always been easy adjusting to this megalopolis of 20 million-plus, with its

crowded subway and unfamiliar, slang-heavy Spanish, but at least they're safe from the gangs rampaging back home.

All eleven were recognized as refugees by Mexico in March and granted asylum, making them part of a growing wave of refugees from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala who are resettling here instead of trying to reach the United States, which many see as increasingly hostile.

The rise in refugee resettlement in Mexico has paralleled a decrease in immigration to the United States, with apprehensions by U.S. Border Patrol down sharply at the frontier—especially of unaccompanied children and families like Cruz's.

Under President Donald Trump, U.S. authorities have sought to ramp up immigration enforcement and decrease the number of refugees. Last week Thomas Homan, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, warned that those who enter the U.S. illegally "should not be comfortable" and "should be concerned that someone is looking for you."

"I do think there are fewer people deciding to focus their sights on the United States precisely because it has projected itself as being an unwelcoming country," said Maureen Meyer, a senior associate for Mexico at the Washington Office on Latin America, a human rights-focused organization.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Thailand extends registration deadline for foreign workers

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's military government used a special executive order Tuesday to delay implementation of a recently introduced labor law after tens of thousands of migrant workers fled the country fearing punishment under the new rules. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha invoked the order to suspend parts of the law that took effect June 23 to crack down on unregistered foreign migrant workers. Prayuth's order sets a new deadline of Jan. 1, 2018, for registration. At least 30,000 workers from neigh-

Focus

TRUMP, PUTIN SUMMIT

No 'specific agenda,'
but lots to discuss

AP
In this July 1, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks in Washington. President Donald Trump's first face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin this week will be brimming with global intrigue, but the White House says there's "no specific agenda."



AP
In this Friday, June 2, 2017, file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

By JOSH LEDERMAN and
MATTHEW LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's first face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday will be brimming with global intrigue, but the White House says there's "no specific agenda." So in the absence of a set list of topics, what are two of the world's most famously unpredictable leaders to discuss?

Trump, who prefers to have neatly packaged achievements to pair with high-profile meetings, may be looking for some concessions from Russia to show he's delivering progress and helping restore a productive relationship between the two powers. Putin would almost surely want something in return, and there's a long list of "irritants" between the two countries that they could potentially resolve.

Ahead of the bilateral meeting, White House National Security Council and State Department officials have been reviewing possible gestures the U.S. could offer Russia as part of the meeting, a current and a former administration official said. They weren't authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity.

Yet any outward sign of bonhomie between Trump and Putin would be immediately seized upon by the president's critics and Russia hawks eager to show he's cozying up to the

Russian leader. The ongoing investigations into Russia's interference in the U.S. election and potential Trump campaign collusion won't be far from anyone's minds.

The two leaders will sit down in Hamburg, Germany, on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit of leading rich and developing nations. Ahead of the meeting, Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak met Monday in Washington with the No. 3 U.S. diplomat, Thomas Shannon, to prepare.

A look at what Trump and Putin could address:

ELECTION HACKING

Trump has been reluctant to publicly and directly acknowledge Russia's role in meddling in the U.S. election, out of apparent concern it undermines the legitimacy of his win. He's also insisted there was no collusion with him or his campaign, a conclusion that U.S. investigators have not yet reached.

U.S. officials say Russia tried to hack election systems in 21 states and to sway the election for Trump, a level of interference in the U.S. political system that security experts say represents a top-level threat that should command a forceful response from the U.S. Putin has denied all this.

There are no indications Trump plans to raise Russia's meddling at the meeting. Yet if he doesn't, it will give fuel to Trump's critics who say he's blatantly ignoring a major national security threat. It could

also embolden those who say Trump is trying to cover for the Russians after benefiting from their interference.

IRRITANTS

Each side has a long list of complaints about the other that do not rise to the geopolitical level but are nonetheless impeding broader attempts to coordinate or cooperate on larger concerns. After meeting in Moscow earlier this year, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed to set up a mechanism to deal with these issues the Russians describe as "irritants" and the Americans call "the smalls."

But even that effort has stalled. After the Treasury last month imposed new sanctions on Russia for its intervention in Ukraine, Moscow called off a scheduled second meeting between Thomas Shannon, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, and Sergey Ryabkov, a Russian deputy foreign minister. Shannon and Ryabkov's canceled June 23 meeting in St. Petersburg has yet to be rescheduled.

It was not clear if either Trump or Putin would seek to reopen the channel when they see each other in Hamburg, although Tillerson and other State Department officials have taken pains to stress that they remain open to a resumption of the talks.

RUSSIA'S WISH LIST

Russia has been especially

vocal about its chief demand: the return of two properties it owns in the U.S. that were seized by the Obama administration as punishment for Russian meddling in the 2016 election. The recreational compounds are located in Oyster Bay, New York, on Long Island, and along the Corsica River in the Eastern Shore region of Maryland.

On Monday, Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Russia had been remarkably restrained by declining to retaliate but that its patience was running out. If the U.S. doesn't soon give back the compounds, also known as dachas, Moscow will have no choice but to retaliate, Ushakov said.

Another Russian demand is to ease surveillance of its diplomats in the U.S.

US DEMANDS

The U.S. has its own list, topped by a resumption of adoptions of Russian children by American parents which Russia banned in late 2012, an end to what it says is intensifying harassment of U.S. diplomats and other officials in Russia and a resolution to a dispute over a piece of land in St. Petersburg that was meant to be the site of a new U.S. consulate in Russia's second-largest city. The U.S. also wants expanded cultural and exchange programs between the two countries. Such programs were vastly curtailed or ended after Putin's 2012 re-

turn to the Kremlin in an election he accused Washington of interfering in.

Tillerson has made the adoption issue a priority, according to aides, although it remains unclear if he has succeeded in convincing the Russians to even consider revisiting the ban. The property dispute in St. Petersburg dates to 2014 when Russia blocked the U.S. from developing the site after the Obama administration hit Russia with sanctions because of its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

Officials say the U.S. won't simply swap the Russian compounds for the St. Petersburg consulate. Action on the other demands is also required, they say.

UKRAINE SANCTIONS

Moscow has long sought an easing of economic sanctions the U.S. slapped on Russia over its actions in eastern Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, which the U.S. does not recognize. Though there were indications that Trump's aides entertained easing the sanctions in the run-up to the inauguration and early days of his presidency, his administration has repeatedly insisted that they will stay in place until Russia pulls out of Crimea and lives up to its commitments under a cease-fire deal for eastern Ukraine that has never been fully implemented.

Given that Russia has taken neither of those steps, easing sanctions would require a

major reversal by Trump and would infuriate Russia hawks in both parties in the U.S. In fact, Congress has been pushing to increase sanctions on Russia and make them harder for Trump to lift. The Senate has passed the popular measure, which won't go to a House vote before Trump's meeting with Putin.

SYRIA

Eager to bolster his global legitimacy, Putin has been pressing the U.S. to cooperate militarily with Russia in Syria, where both Moscow and Washington oppose the Islamic State group but disagree about Syrian President Bashar Assad. Though defense laws passed in the wake of the Ukraine crisis bar the U.S. military from cooperating with Russia, the two have maintained a "deconfliction" hotline to ensure their forces don't accidentally collide on the crowded Syrian battlefield.

The Pentagon has steadfastly resisted proposals to work closely with Russia in Syria, out of concern the U.S. can't trust Moscow with sensitive intelligence information. But the problems posed by the lack of coordination in Syria have resurfaced following recent events. The U.S. has recently shot down several pro-Syrian government aircraft, leading Russia, an ally of the Syrian government, to threaten to shoot down any aircraft that flies west of the Euphrates River.

Environment

Trump order that could shrink marine sanctuaries moves forward

By PAUL ROGERS
THE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Eleven national marine sanctuaries and monuments — from Monterey Bay to New England to the South Pacific — could lose protections under new details of a Trump administration plan released Monday that seeks to expand offshore oil and gas drilling.

The areas total 425 million acres of coral reefs, sandy beaches, and habitat for whales, dolphins, turtles, birds and fish — equal in size to roughly one-fifth of the Lower 48 states.

As the specifics of the proposal were made public Monday, environmentalists blasted the plan and urged the public to fight it.

“These are America’s most sensitive ocean areas,” said Richard Charter of Bodega Bay, Calif., a senior fellow with the Ocean Foundation, an environmental group. “Trump is going for the jugular of the marine environment here. It’s incoherent.”

On April 28, President Donald Trump signed an executive order requiring U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to review any actions taken since 2007 that expanded existing national marine sanctuaries or monuments or established new ones, and to report back to the White House in October.

“Today we are unleashing American energy and clearing the way for thousands and thousands of high-paying American energy jobs,”



TNS
A minke whale cruising the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in March 2015. Eleven national marine sanctuaries and monuments—from Monterey Bay to New England to the South Pacific—could lose protections under new details of a Trump administration plan released Monday that seeks to expand offshore oil and gas drilling.

tall coral forests, fields of colorful sponges, crabs and anemones that close like Venus flytraps. The entire Monterey Bay sanctuary, first set aside by Congress and President George H.W. Bush, in 1992, would not be affected, but the seamount area could be removed.

■ Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries: In 2015, Obama more than doubled the size of two Northern California marine sanctuaries, extending them by 50 miles from the Marin County coast up the rugged Sonoma and Mendocino coasts. That expansion could be revoked, clearing the way for oil drilling there.

Trump said then at a White House ceremony.

Although commercial fishing interests and some oil companies have pushed to open some of the areas, California’s main oil industry trade group said Monday it would not be submitting comments on the plan.

“I am confident that our industry can produce energy safely no matter the environment, so it is understandable that the possibilities are being reviewed,” said Catherine Reheis-Boyd, president of the Western States Petroleum Association. “However, I am not aware of any of our members chomping at the bit to pursue the opportunity in California.”

nity in California.”

On Monday, the official notice with details was published in the Federal Register and a 30-day public comment period began.

The federal notice, which detailed for the first time which ocean areas would be affected, seeks to reverse protections put in place by both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. The order would not affect parts of sanctuaries and monuments established before 2007.

Environmentalists had been bracing for Monday’s details, and asked opponents to file comments at saveourmarine-sanctuaries.org.

The federal notice on Monday showed areas that could be reduced in size are:

■ Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: In 2008, Bush expanded the sanctuary, which stretches from the Marin Headlands to Hearst

Castle, by 496,000 acres to include Davidson Seamount, a dormant underwater volcano 80 miles southwest of Monterey that scientists with high-tech underwater subs found is thick with 10-foot

US-Cuba sea mission finds healthy reefs, invasive lionfish

HAVANA (AP)—A joint U.S.-Cuban expedition to explore the island’s coral reefs uncovered a surprisingly healthy ecosystem and large schools of mackerel with significant commercial value, scientists involved in the mission said Tuesday.

The study also found alarmingly high numbers of invasive lionfish, which is not native to the Western Hemisphere and has become a growing marine menace in recent years.

“We found an incredible amount of diversity, especially in algae and sponges, and the reefs were in incredible health as well,” said Patricia Gonzalez of the Marine Investigations Center at the University of Havana. “Some of the most fascinating results have to do with widespread coral coverage, in some cases up to 70

and 80 percent ... and some species we believe are new.”

The preliminary findings came from an expedition aboard a boat that sailed more than 1,400 nautical miles around Cuba in May and June.

Scientists said the mission was made possible by the restoration of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington two years ago under then-President Barack Obama and his Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro.


It was a result of an agreement signed in 2015 between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. National Park Service and Cuba’s Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

Florida Atlantic University provided technology aboard the boat that allowed special-

ists to observe coral reefs at a depth of over 200 feet (60 meters), participants said.

Scientists predicted such cooperative ventures will continue despite current President Donald Trump’s new policy toward the communist-run country, which would prohibit most new American transactions with Cuban military-linked businesses and restrict some U.S. travel to the island.

“Environment and science are two issues that everyone can agree on,” said Dan Whittle of the Environmental Defense Fund. “It’s fairly apolitical, and if you look into the Trump National Security Directive, there’s a line in there that identifies science and the environment as one area of engagement that will continue.”



In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

† Leonora Santos Agulto Castro

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow.

Your thoughtful prayers, comfort and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn to smiles.

We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

Special Acknowledgement to Dr. Al-Alou, Dr. James Hofschneider, Dr. Tony Stearns, Doctors and Staff at Asia Medical in the Philippines, Saipan, and Guam Medical Referral Team, Regional Medical City Hospital in Guam, San Augustin Funeral Home in Guam, Borja's Funeral Home in Saipan, Natibu's Catering, Blossoms Floral, Father Jason Granado, Father Isaac Ayuyu, Father Jesse Reyes and our techa Doris Sanchez.

To all who helped us in one way or another, THANK YOU.

God Bless you All

From: Jesus B. Castro, Children & Family

Life & Style

Marianas Film Festival

launch brings global attention



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The executive chairman of the organizing committee, Xiang Guo, walks Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher Concepcion on the history of the film museum.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Appearing before the international press were Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion following the official launch of the Marianas International Film Festival.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A bevy of international filmmaking and industry players and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion were front and center during the June 24 launch of the film festival.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI delegation: From left, Alex Sablan, vice president, TanHolding Corp.; Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog; Glenna SP Reyes, senior policy adviser to the governor; Frances Dela Cruz, executive secretary to the governor; Christopher Concepcion, managing director of MVA; and Tao Xing, executive vice president of Imperial Pacific International Ltd.

The world's attention was on Shanghai last June 24 when the Marianas International Film Festival was launched at the Crowne Plaza Shanghai Hotel.

It was a glitzy ceremony, with a bevy of film directors, celebrities, producers and industry players attending and supporting film festival.

The festival's first award ceremony will be held on Dec. 6 on Saipan.

Attending the kickoff ceremony were Yang Bu Ting, chairman of the China Film Group Corp. and honorary

chairman of the Marianas International Film Festival; Kim Dong Ho, former secretary of Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, founder of the Busan International Film Festival, and co-chairman of Marianas International Film Festival; Max Borenstein, a famous Hollywood screenwriter, director, and producer; Kimberley Kates, a well-known Hollywood producer and actor, and representatives of Imperial Pacific International Ltd.

Representing the CNMI were Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christo-

pher A. Concepcion.

Also in attendance were Ng See Yuen, president of the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers, honorary chairman of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild, and chairman of the Marianas International Film Festival; Li Qian Kuan, former chairman of the China Film Association, librarian of Central Literature and History Museum, and the co-chairman of the Marianas International Film Festival; Xi Mei Juan, vice chair of China Film Association and a performing artist; and Hung Kam Po, a Hong Kong film director and actor.

These respected industry

players were joined by a throng of international media that witnessed the birth of the Marianas International Film Festival.

Awards setting

The Marianas International Film Festival is set to promote the idea of unity, harmony, and world peace. As a new film festival, the Marianas International Film Festival places great importance on originality.

A list of awards will be presented in December, which includes the award for best picture; grand jury prize; best director; best screenplay; best actor; best actress; best sup-

porting actor; best supporting actress; best cinematography; best film editing; best technical achievement; best original song; best new director and best new actor/actress, etc.

The festival is also designed to support young filmmakers, with a panel of judges to screen the best film created by young filmmakers.

International filmmakers will be invited to join the various film exhibitions, seminars and forum during the film festival.

About the festival

The Marianas International Film Festival is jointly spon-

sored by Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. and Marianas Visitors Authority, among others.

Only the finest quality films will be shown at the film festival.

Organizers are expecting this to be another major international festival, following best-known film festivals such as the Cannes Film Festival and Venice Film Festival.

It is being reported that famous entertainment and movie industry players and celebrities are set to visit and participate in the Dec. 6 awards ceremony on Saipan. (PR)

Joey Chestnut wins 10th title, gobbles a record 72 hot dogs

NEW YORK (AP)—Joey “Jaws” Chestnut gulped, chomped and powered his way to a 10th title on Tuesday, continuing his record-setting reign as the chowing champion at the annual Nathan’s Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest.

Shoving water-soaked buns and wriggling franks into his mouth on a hot, sunny day on the Coney Island boardwalk, he downed 72 dogs and buns in 10 minutes to beat his own record and hoist the Mustard Belt for a 10th time. The San Jose, California, man bested up-and-comer Carmen Cincotti, of Mays Landing, New Jersey, who ate 60 franks and buns on his 24th birthday.

Miki Sudo notched a fourth straight win in the women’s competition. The Las Vegas woman ate 41 hot dogs and buns to beat Michelle Lesco of Tucson, Arizona, who downed 32 franks and buns.

During the men’s competition, five people were taken into custody for trying to disrupt the event, police said. The people appeared to be attempting to unfold a black banner before police stopped them and took them away. They were taken to a precinct where they were questioned and released, police said.

The demonstrators later issued a statement saying they were from a group called Direct Action Everywhere, and want Nathan’s to stop holding the contest.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals members separately had been giving away free vegan hot dogs outside the event, but spokeswoman Tricia Lebkuecher said the people arrested inside weren’t affiliated with PETA.

Chestnut has dominated the chowdown throwdown for



AP
Joey Chestnut eats two hot dogs at a time during the Nathan’s Annual Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest, Tuesday July 4, 2017, in New York.

years, eating 70 franks and buns last year to top his then-record and take back the title from Matt “The Megatoad” Stonie. The 25-year-old Stonie came in third on Tuesday, with

48 franks and buns.

“There’s no secret, I love to eat, and I love doing it, I love to win, so I had to figure out my body and push it to the limit,” a sweating Chest-

nut said after his win. The 33-year-old said he’d hoped to down even more dogs but was leaving feeling good.

Cincotti said he’d eaten a thousand hot dogs since May

in preparation for his second try at the Mustard Belt. Getting to even second place is “surreal—I grew up watching this contest,” he said.

Meanwhile, the women’s

side has featured a yearslong rivalry between Sudo and record-holder Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas, of Alexandria, Virginia. Thomas, who’s 50, came in third on Tuesday with 30 dogs and buns, well shy of her record 45.

Sudo told ESPN she “just came back better than ever” this year. She’s 31; Lesco is 33.

One of America’s most outlandish July Fourth traditions, the contest dates to 1972, though the company has for years promoted what a former president acknowledged was a legendary start date of 1916.

Leigh Brown and her husband brought her 11-year-old sons, Carter and Corbyn, all the way from Florida to see it.

“They really wanted to come. They always watched it on TV, so it’s pretty special for them,” Brown said.

Czech orchestra of disabled musicians gets world attention

PRAGUE (AP)—It’s an unusual orchestra, one that has played in London, Madrid, Moscow and Jerusalem. Its next stops are New York, Washington and Chicago.

The Tap Tap, created 18 years ago to give students at a renowned school for the disabled in Prague an extracurricular activity, has become a major musical operation that has drawn millions of fans, first at home and gradually abroad.

You can’t tell from its professional, typically rhythmic sound that many of the musicians are in wheelchairs with serious disabilities. And that’s

just what its director wants.

Band leader Simon Ornest believes that often the disabled aren’t challenged enough and people tend to be too solicitous of them.

“My goal from the very start was not to do it as a therapy but as a band with everything that it could involve,” Ornest said. “(Those) around 18 to 20 years old are confronted in our band for the first time with a situation where we really want something from them. We insist on it.”

Ornest said he had a feeling the concept was viable but has been astounded at its success.

“I wouldn’t believe it would be possible to develop it as we have done. It’s an elaborate system with hard work behind it, unexpectedly hard work,” he said.

He said the band’s strength is based on its two essential rules.

“We come on time and we do what we promised among ourselves to do. It’s a pretty good basis for any teamwork,” he said.

In the beginning, The Tap Tap started with cover versions of their favorite songs. Today it produces music of its own, with help from local musicians, and lyrics that tar-

get the world of the disabled.

“We try to sing about the people with disabilities in a sensitive but also humorous way,” Ornest said.

Their recent hit, “The Bus Director” is about a bus driver who prevents a disabled man from boarding the bus with his bicycle. The song has had over 6.9 million views on YouTube—quite an accomplishment for a song sung in Czech in a country of only 10 million.

“At the beginning, people were more curious about what we are, about what the disabled can perform,” said Jana Augustinova, a The

Tap Tap singer. “And then (came) pity, wonder. Now, we have fans as any other band. They like our music and they don’t consider us a band of disabled kids but as a real band.”

Today, the 20-member ensemble plays about 60 concerts a year and has been performing a musical at the National Theatre in Prague. Despite all the difficulties of going on the road, The Tap Tap has played a number of European capitals. This year it is crossing the Atlantic to put on concerts in New York City, Washington D.C. and Chicago.

Man faces choosing between job and his dream lifestyle

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 47-year-old man. I live alone in a small city in New York. I have a good job. I have been with the company for years and my bosses take good care of me. However, I want to live a semi-homesteading-type life on my own property, providing myself with my basic needs. I cannot do this in the area where I live because of strict zoning.

I’m torn between leaving my job to move and live the life I dream of, or staying where I am and trying to get as close as I can to that lifestyle. Can you help me?

TORN IN NEW YORK

DEAR TORN: The questions you need to answer are can you AFFORD to live your dream right now and, if not, how long will you have to wait until you can achieve it? Your next move should be to talk to your CPA or to a certified financial planner and see what it will take to make your dream a reality. Unless you are sure about that, you should stay where you are until you have enough money for a comfortable retirement off the grid.

DEAR ABBY: I am a working mother of two, married for 20 years. I go to great lengths to keep a Google calendar updated, which my husband has access to any time he wishes to

see it. The problem is, he rarely looks at it. Instead, he asks me daily, “What have we got going on today?” or, “What time is (blank)?” or, “Do we have anything happening the weekend of (blank)?” Sometimes he texts me while I’m working to ask what time one of our children needs to be picked up.

Abby, it drives me crazy! At any hour of any day he is one click away from all this information. It makes me feel like I’m his secretary. I have told him how it makes me feel numerous times to no avail. How can I get him to use the calendar and stop treating me like his personal secretary?

FED UP IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FED UP: Here’s how: Do not react in anger. When he asks these questions, your response should be: “I don’t know, Honey. I’m sure it’s on the calendar. Why don’t you look it up?”

DEAR ABBY: My son is 29. He has no vanity at all and does not care how he dresses or looks. He has always been this way. He just got married, and his wife is a darling girl. How can I make him understand how important this is, not only to him but also to his wife?

CONCERNED MOM

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CONCERNED MOM: It’s my observation that people who make the effort to “put themselves together” usually feel better for having done so. However, if your son is doing well at his job, happy in his relationships and in his marriage, then perhaps you shouldn’t second-guess him. The time to have impressed the importance of good grooming on your son was while he was still a minor and living with you. Now that he’s 29, face it, that horse left the barn years ago.

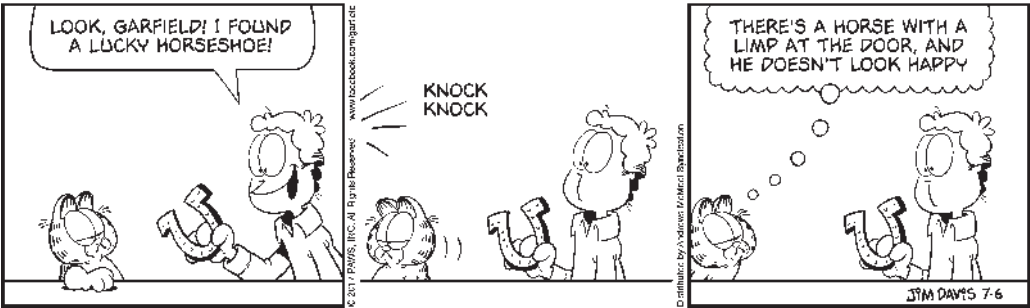
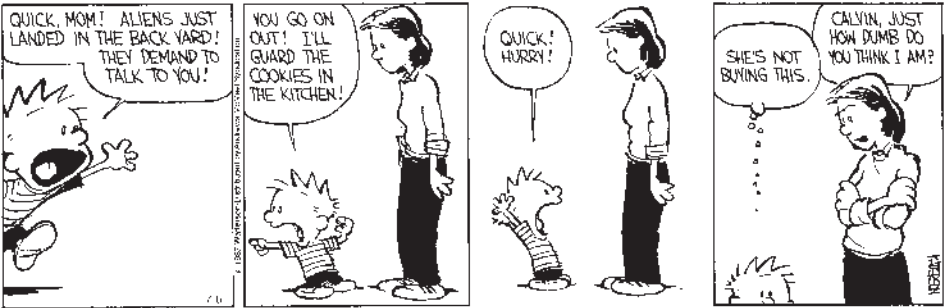
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

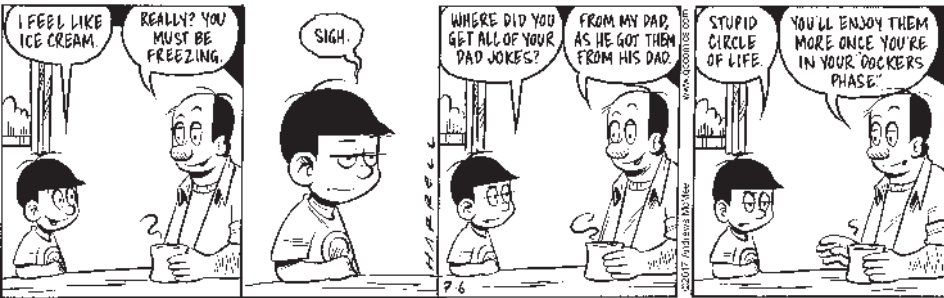
By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

40 Like
1 Morose
5 Mojito
8 Nile
12 Overdue
13 Year in
14 Man-
15 Winged
16 Profit
17 Never
18 Showy
20 Guided
22 Not on
23 Avril
24 Loony
27 Rat out
32 "Believer"
33 Clean
34 Obtained
35 Eighth
38 Milne
39 Snip

41 Chorus
42 Zesty
45 Accus-
49 Reunion
50 Corral
52 Labyrinth
53 Ms.
54 Reuben
55 Green
56 Org.
57 "Cer-
58 Ginger
DOWN

1 Pleased
2 Chorus
3 Beehive
4 Red
5 Pursued
6 French
7 Closet
8 Unprin-
9 California
10 Brownish
11 Santa's
19 Kipling
21 Ambu-
24 Mil. group
25 "I —
26 Groupie
28 Mimic
29 Beach-
30 Tic-tac-
31 Ultimate
36 Grey-
37 Actress
38 Ostrich
41 Fashion-
42 Mystery
43 Pub
44 Agile
46 April
47 Poet
48 Leak out
51 CBS

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Hart, 38; Tia and Tamera Mowry, 39; 50 Cent, 42; Sylvester Stallone, 71.

Happy Birthday: Opportunities will develop if you connect with people you have worked with in the past or if you take a course that involves the latest technology. Learn more about an industry that interests you or that you are involved in already. Change may not be your strong point, but it will be important this year if you want to get ahead. Your numbers are 3, 14, 20, 23, 31, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can be honest without sharing how much money you make. Keep your financial matters, assets and possessions a secret until you feel comfortable sharing such details with others. It's important to protect your position, reputation and belongings. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Handle your financial matters yourself. Don't feel the need to pay someone else or to donate to something you know little about. Keep your facts straight and be ready to take action to protect your assets and your reputation. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't feel you have to go overboard if someone asks for help. Offer suggestions, but don't take on the work yourself. Look out for your own interests and use your charm and know-how to dodge unrealistic requests. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Taking a closer look at what your peers are doing will spark an idea that may encourage you to keep up and to compete. Let your strong

points carry you to the winner's circle. Display your knowledge, experience and skill. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen and learn. You'll absorb information that will help you get a better understanding of the possibilities that are available. Networking functions and sharing your dream with someone you love will turn into something worthwhile. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Disillusionment will surface regarding a partnership you thought you could trust. Dig deep and find out exactly where you stand before you let any situation turn into a fiasco. Arguing will not be the answer. Get the facts and make a decision. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change of scenery will do you good. Sign up for a conference or course that will broaden your spectrum on something you want to pursue. Mix business with pleasure and you'll make headway personally and professionally. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't feel pressured to follow the crowd or to let anyone put demands on you. Think for yourself and you will come up with a plan that works best for you. Someone from your past is best kept at a distance. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make positive changes if you think matters through carefully. Bolster your plans with facts, experience and well-thought-out ideas. Romance is on the rise, and doing something nice for someone you love will enhance your relationship. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Learn from what you observe. If someone shows signs of extravagance or bravado, it may be best to back away. An unpredictable situation will have hidden undertones that could be damaging to your career or reputation. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your best foot forward and do all you can to help improve your community and environment. Your help and support will change the way others view you and give you a renewed sense of community involvement. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Consider what is in your best interest. Don't let someone manipulate you by using emotional blackmail or pressure tactics. Don't be afraid to say "no." ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, innovative and progressive. You are energetic and astute.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	4		2		3						
			5		1	8		7			
7	6										
	1						8	2			
6	7							9			
4		5	1		3			7	5		
		7			8			4			

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 7/106

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	6	9	3	4	1	5	8
3	4	1	6	8	5	9	7	2
9	5	8	2	7	1	3	4	6
6	3	5	8	9	2	7	1	4
2	8	7	4	1	3	5	6	9
4	1	9	7	5	6	8	2	3
5	7	4	3	2	8	6	9	1
1	6	3	5	4	9	2	8	7
8	9	2	1	6	7	4	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 7/106

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2017-CDA-07-IFB**

CLOSING DATE: Monday, July 17, 2017 • **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

“OFFICE SPACE FOR CDA in ROTA”

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The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement and Supply

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DLNR/DFW-172-CIF ROTA**

SUBMISSION: JULY 28, 2017 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE**
ACTING SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Hayward chooses Celtics over Jazz, Heat

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Gordon Hayward and Brad Stevens were a couple inches from winning an NCAA championship together at Butler.

They are now reuniting, to try for an NBA title.

The top remaining free agent in this summer's class is now off the board, with Hayward announcing Tuesday night with an essay on The Players' Tribune site that he will sign with the Boston Celtics—coached by Stevens—and leave the Utah Jazz after seven seasons.

"This was a life-changing decision for me and my family, and something we took really seriously," Hayward wrote. "And from the very start of this process, one thing stood out as important: I knew that I wanted the fans and the organizations to hear my decision directly from me.

"After seven years in Utah, I have decided to join the Boston Celtics."

A person with knowledge of the negotiations said Hayward agreed to a four-year contract, the last of those years being a player option, with a total value of around \$128 million. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be completed before the league's moratorium ends on Thursday.

"Gordon has been an important part of our Jazz family for the past seven years," Jazz owner Gail Miller said. "While disappointed that he is moving on, we thank him for his contributions to the organization and wish Gordon, (his wife) Robyn and their family well."

It was a decision that Hay-

ward said he agonized over, and he said he was impressed by the pitches—albeit unsuccessful ones—that Miami and Utah made for him over the last few days. But his ties to Stevens, and the memories of how close they were to a title, seemed to weigh heavily on his mind throughout this process.

Butler went to the NCAA championship game in back-to-back seasons under Stevens in 2010 and 2011, losing to Duke and Connecticut. In the 2010 game, Hayward's desperation shot to win the title from midcourt narrowly missed as time expired and Duke won 61-59.

From there, Hayward went to the NBA. Not long afterward, Stevens followed. And now, they're together again.

"That unfinished business we had together, back in 2010, when I left Butler for the NBA, as far as I'm concerned, all of these years later, we still have it: And that's to win a championship," Hayward wrote.

Hayward leaves a loaded Western Conference to join a Boston team that was the No. 1 seed in last season's Eastern Conference playoffs. He was finally an All-Star for the first time last season, averaging career bests of 21.9 points and 5.4 rebounds.

Hayward also shot 47 percent, a significant jump over what he managed in the previous four seasons.

His post capped a strange day, after it was widely reported in the early afternoon that Hayward picked the Celtics—a decision immediately shot down by his agent Mark Bartelstein, who told AP and many other outlets that Hayward was still going over his options.

Several hours later, it was done, and it was Boston.

"This has been the toughest



In this May 6, 2017, file photo, Utah Jazz forward Gordon Hayward (20) shoots as Golden State Warriors guard Shaun Livingston (34) defends in the second half during Game 3 of the NBA basketball second-round playoff series in Salt Lake City.

Utah has been a team on the rise. But with the West still absolutely loaded—Golden State winning two titles in the last three years, Houston acquiring All-Star point guard Chris Paul in an effort to move up and challenge the champs, and Oklahoma City getting Paul George to pair with MVP Russell Westbrook—the best chance for Hayward to make an NBA Finals may be trying to get there from the East.

Boston obviously agrees.

"Let's get to it, Gordon Hayward," Celtics All-Star guard Isaiah Thomas wrote in a tweet Tuesday night featuring emojis showing two shamrocks and a watch.

decision that I've ever had to make in my life," Hayward wrote. "This weekend has probably been the longest weekend of my life. And today ... well, today has definitely been one of the craziest days of my life. But I wanted to make sure that I got this right."

He becomes the third prominent free agent in three years to announce his plans on July 4: LaMarcus Aldridge left Portland for San Antonio on that date in 2015, and Kevin Durant left Oklahoma City for Golden State on the holiday in 2016.

Hayward opted out of his contract and became a free agent late last month, a move that was expected. Utah could have been in position to offer Hayward the so-called Supermax deal—a five-year ex-

tension worth just over \$200 million—if he was selected to an All-NBA team after the season, but his vote total fell well short of making that list.

Other than Golden State stars Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant, Hayward may have been the top free agent on the market this summer.

And he clearly leaves Utah with the fondest of memories, going back to his start with coach Jerry Sloan.

"I was literally the last Jazz player left who played under Coach Sloan—and I always took that as a lot more than just some piece of trivia," Hayward wrote. "That was something that truly made me feel like a part of the fabric of this franchise. And that fabric is something that has meant a lot to me, ever since."

Kings land veteran free agents Zach Randolph, George Hill

The Sacramento Kings added veteran help to their young roster on Tuesday by agreeing to free-agent contracts with forward Zach Randolph and point guard George Hill.

Randolph left Memphis for a \$24 million, two-year deal to reunite with former Grizzlies coach Dave Joerger in Sacramento, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be signed until Thursday.

ESPN first reported the agreement.

Hill announced on Twitter that he was coming to Sacramento. Yahoo Sports first reported the deal, saying Hill would get \$57 million over three years.

The Kings started free agency with just two players on the roster who are not on their rookie contracts—guard Garrett Temple and center Kosta Koufos—and were seeking some proven players to provide stability. Sacramento went 30-52 last season, Joerger's first year, and has not made the playoffs since 2006.

The Kings hope the additions of Randolph and Hill will help change that. (AP)

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Weeks after the sides came to a final agreement on how to part ways and more than a year since his last NBA appearance because of blood-clot issues, Bosh was waived by the Heat on Tuesday.

The move was a formality.

It gives Miami access to \$25.3 million in salary-cap space for this coming season, which the Heat will use to sign free agents starting Thursday. Bosh still gets that salary, plus \$26.8 million for next season, and in theory could continue his career—if another team declares him fit to play.

It's unknown if that will happen.

But at least there's finally closure on his Miami era, and

Bosh, Miami Heat formally part ways

the Heat announced his No. 1 jersey has been retired.

"Chris changed his life and basketball career when he came to Miami," Heat President Pat Riley said. "And he changed our lives for the better, in a way we never would have imagined when he joined the Miami Heat. We will forever be indebted to CB for how he changed this team and led us to four trips to the NBA Finals and two NBA championships.

"He is, without a doubt, one of the greatest players in the history of the franchise."

Bosh signed a five-year deal to stay with the Heat in 2014, shortly after LeBron James left Miami for a return to Cleveland. James, Bosh

and Dwyane Wade went to the NBA Finals in all four of their seasons together in Miami, winning titles in 2012 and 2013.

Bosh's last Miami deal was worth \$118 million. For that, he was only able to play in 97 games.

"You always want what's best for Chris, whatever that is," Heat captain Udonis Haslem said earlier this year. "I know how difficult this has been for him."

Bosh appeared in 44 games in 2014-15, his season ending at the All-Star break when the first known clot episode started. A year later, he played in 53 games and—in an eerie similarity—his season again ended

at All-Star weekend, when another clot was found shortly after he landed in Toronto for the 2016 All-Star Game.

Bosh hasn't played since, missing Miami's last 125 games.

"I'm kind of getting the taste of retirement now," Bosh said in January.

He wanted to return last season, but failed a preseason physical and the Heat made clear that they were moving on without him in their plans. Because of the sensitivity of Bosh's medical situation, the Heat never could provide specifics—under league rule, any matter that would rise to the level of being possibly life-threatening cannot be dis-

cussed openly by teams without the player's consent.

Even the team's release on Tuesday announcing the waiving made no reference to Bosh's health issues, or status.

Bosh has played in 13 NBA seasons, seven with Toronto and then six with Miami. He was part of Miami's massive free-agent haul in 2010, where the Heat not only kept Wade but landed James to form something that team president Pat Riley felt could turn into something dynastic.

Bosh had a huge role in perhaps the biggest play in team history—with Miami down by three late in a win-or-else Game 6 of the 2013 NBA Finals against San Antonio, he

grabbed an offensive rebound and tossed the ball to Ray Allen to set up a corner 3-pointer that tied the game with 5.2 seconds left.

The Heat would win that game in overtime, with Bosh blocking a shot by Danny Green as time expired, and then would prevail in Game 7 for the third title in franchise history.

Bosh, a certain future member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, has averaged 19.2 points and 8.5 rebounds in his career.

"We can't wait to someday hang his jersey in the rafters," Riley said. "Today, we are both moving on but we wish Chris, Adrienne and their family nothing but the best. They will forever be part of the Miami Heat family."

Spangenberg, 6 pitchers lead Padres to 1-0 win over Indians



CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP)—Cory

Spangenberg drove in the only run with a groundout, and six San Diego pitchers combined on a five-hitter as the Padres edged the Cleveland Indians 1-0 on Tuesday despite a record-setting outing by All-Star Corey Kluber.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona missed the game after he was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic for tests. Francona was hospitalized twice last month after feeling lightheaded and having a rapid heart rate. He was fitted with a heart monitor last week and said at the time doctors had ruled out any serious health issues.

Team president Chris Antonetti said Francona did not experience the previous symptoms again, and the tests were being done to help determine what's causing the issue.

Kluber (7-3) struck out 10 in eight innings — setting a franchise mark with five consecutive double-digit strikeout games. But the 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner received little help from his offense or defense.

Jose Torres (5-2) got two outs for the win. Brandon Mauer pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out 11 to become the first 13-game winner in the majors this season, helping first-place Los Angeles beat Arizona in a matchup of the National League's top two teams.

Kershaw (13-2) ended up allowing two hits in seven shutout innings. He lost his bid for a second career no-hitter on an infield single by Chris Owings with one out in the seventh.

All-Star closer Kenley Jansen entered with two on in the ninth and gave up a three-run homer to Daniel Descalso. Jansen finished for his 18th save in as many chances.

Kershaw has made 12 consecutive starts without a loss and is 9-0 with a 2.19 ERA since a 4-3 loss to San Francisco on May 1. The left-hander hasn't allowed a run in his last three starts.

Arizona lefty Patrick Corbin (6-8) gave up three runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Justin Turner homered and drove in two runs for the Dodgers. Yasmani Grandal also knocked in two runs.

Red Sox 11, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Andrew Benintendi went 5 for 5 with two homers, six RBIs and a terrific catch in left field, and David Price struck out nine

over six scoreless innings as Boston beat Texas to stretch the longest winning streak in the majors to six games.

The first Red Sox rookie with two five-hit games in a season, Benintendi had a three-run homer in the fifth that chased All-Star pitcher Yu Darvish (6-7), who matched career highs by allowing seven runs and 11 hits.

Benintendi led off the eighth by going the opposite way for his 12th homer, with the ball hitting on top of the 14-foot wall down the left-field line. Jackie Bradley Jr. followed with his 11th home run.

Price (4-2) threw 70 of 106 pitches for strikes in his eighth start since missing the season's first seven weeks with an elbow strain. The lefty departed after his second walk started the seventh.

Adrian Beltre has 2,974 career hits after a three-hit night for Texas that included his 600th career double. Mike Napoli went deep for the fourth straight game, his 18th homer being a three-run drive in the eighth after the Rangers trailed 11-0.

Astros 16, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Jose Altuve homered and drove in four runs, Josh Reddick hit a grand slam and Houston pounded Atlanta.

Showing why they're the best team in baseball at 57-27, the Astros banged out 19 hits to tie a season high and led 12-0. But All-Star shortstop Carlos Correa left before the fifth inning with left thumb discomfort. He was hurt sliding headfirst into home as catcher Tyler Flowers tagged him to end the fourth inning. X-rays were negative and Correa is day to day.

Yuli Gurriel doubled twice to drive in three runs, Brad Peacock (6-1) won his third straight start and George Springer went 4 for 5 with a homer, helping Houston improve to 30-9 on the road despite the return of Braves slugger Freddie Freeman from a broken left wrist.

Houston has won 11 of 14 overall and 19 of 22 on the road.

The Braves began the night one game shy of .500 after winning 11 of 15, but Sean Newcomb (1-3) struggled in his first career start against a potent major league lineup.

Freeman came back as Atlanta's starting third baseman, moving from first base to a position he hadn't played since high school. He singled in his first at-bat and easily handled his first chance at third.

Reds 8, Rockies 1

In Denver, Homer Bailey pitched six solid innings for his first win since last August, Billy Hamilton had a two-out,



San Diego Padres catcher Austin Hedges and relief pitcher Brandon Maurer celebrate after the Padres defeated the Cleveland Indians 1-0 in a baseball game, Tuesday, July 4, 2017, in Cleveland.

two-run single after missing a game with a bothersome back and Cincinnati beat Colorado.

Jose Peraza, Scott Schebler and pinch-hitter Scooter Gennett added homers for the Reds, who have won three of their last 18 road games.

The injury-plagued Bailey (1-2) scattered eight hits in the longest of his three starts this season. The right-hander with two career no-hitters was on the disabled list until June 24 as he recovered from off-season surgery to remove bone spurs in his pitching elbow.

Kyle Freeland (8-7) gave up five runs over 5 1/3 innings in his third straight loss.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 1

In New York, CC Sabathia was chased during a four-run third inning in his return from the disabled list, with Kendrys Morales hitting a two-run single that helped the Blue Jays stop a five-game losing streak.

Aaron Judge dented a metal casement above a door behind the left-center field wall with his major league-leading 28th home run, a drive that would have traveled 456 feet had it landed unimpeded, according to MLB's Statcast.

That was the only run off J.A. Happ (3-5), who allowed four hits in six innings. Roberto Osuna pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Sabathia (7-3) was charged with four runs, three hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

Rays 6, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Tim Beckham homered, and the Rays won their reunion with Joe Maddon.

Beckham's two-run drive highlighted a five-run fourth against Jon Lester (5-5). Alex Colome gave up two runs in the ninth, but the Rays won their first meeting against Maddon since he left to manage Chicago following the 2014 season.

Colome threw 38 pitches in the ninth but came away with his 22nd save in 26 chances.

Chris Archer (7-5) picked up his third win in four starts, giving up three runs and eight hits in six innings. The former Cubs prospect also had an RBI single for his first career hit.

Lester allowed up six runs — tying a season high — and nine hits over five innings. Chicago lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Nationals 11, Mets 4

In Washington, Daniel Murphy had four hits and five RBIs, helping NL East-leading Washington to its third straight victory.

Murphy improved his career average to .405 against the Mets, his first and only former big league team.

Bryce Harper had three hits and two RBIs for the Nationals, and Joe Ross (5-3) allowed two runs over seven innings.

Jay Bruce, Jose Reyes and Rene Rivera homered for New York. Seth Lugo (3-2) surrendered six runs and 10 hits in five innings.

Pirates 3, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Pittsburgh right-hander Jameson Taillon struck out a career-best nine in five innings, and Andrew McCutchen hit a pair of solo homers.

Taillon (5-2) allowed four hits and four relievers finished off the six-hitter. The right-hander is 3-1 in five starts since returning from surgery for testicular cancer.

McCutchen ripped his 15th homer to left in the sixth, one pitch after a high-and-tight fastball from Mark Leiter Jr. (1-1) knocked him down. He connected off Ricardo Pinto in the eighth, sending a drive off the facing of the upper deck in left.

A 22-minute rain delay held things up in the bottom of the eighth. Felipe Rivero pitched out of trouble in the ninth for his fourth save in four tries.

Royals 7, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Whit Merrifield

hit the first pitch of the game from Felix Hernandez for his seventh home run, helping Kansas City to its fifth win in six games.

Mike Moustakas added his 24th homer for the Royals, and Salvador Perez also drove in two runs. Danny Duffy (5-4) returned after spending a month on the disabled list and allowed two runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Hernandez (3-3) was charged with six runs, five earned, and six hits in six innings.

Athletics 7, White Sox 6

In Oakland, California, Franklin Barreto homered in the ninth inning, Yonder Alonso went deep twice and Oakland snapped a season-high six-game losing streak.

Matt Joyce's two-run homer and Alonso's long balls in the fourth and fifth helped stake the A's to a 6-5 lead, but Santiago Casilla (2-3) was unable to close it out in the ninth. That set the stage for Barreto's late-inning theatrics.

With one out, Barreto hit a towering fly ball off Tommy Kahnle (0-3) that just cleared the wall in left field and sent the A's pouring out of the dugout for a sorely needed celebration.

Brewers 6, Orioles 2

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames homered twice and Jimmy Nelson pitched seven strong innings, leading Milwaukee to the victory.

Stephen Vogt and Travis Shaw also connected for the NL Central-leading Brewers. Nelson (7-4) allowed an unearned run and six hits.

Jonathan Schoop hit a solo homer for Baltimore in the ninth. Ubaldo Jimenez (3-4) gave up five runs and six hits over five innings.

Tigers 5, Giants 3

In Detroit, Victor Martinez homered, Michael Fulmer

pitched eight innings and Detroit snapped San Francisco's six-game win streak.

Justin Upton went 3 for 3 for the Tigers, including a tiebreaking two-run single with two out in the seventh. Upton's big day helped make up for the loss of slugger Miguel Cabrera, who left after six innings due to left hip tightness.

Fulmer (8-6) allowed two homers for the first time this season. Justin Wilson pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

San Francisco right-hander Matt Cain (3-8) surrendered five runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. He dropped to 0-7 in nine starts since beating the Dodgers on May 15.

Marlins 5, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer and Jose Urena struck out seven in five solid innings, helping Miami to the road win.

JT Riddle added a two-run single for the Marlins, who had dropped five of six. Dee Gordon had three hits, and Giancarlo Stanton reached three times.

Greg Garcia hit a two-run homer for St. Louis, which lost for just the second time in seven games. Lance Lynn (6-6) allowed four runs, two earned, and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Urena (7-3) was charged with two runs and three hits. AJ Ramos got three outs for his 14th save in 15 opportunities.

Twins 5, Angels 4

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kyle Gibson got his first win in three weeks and Byron Buxton hit his fifth homer, leading Minnesota to the victory.

Gibson (5-6) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings in his longest outing of the season. It was his first win since June 13 against Seattle.

Minnesota went ahead to stay with two runs in the fifth. Robbie Grossman hit an RBI double off JC Ramirez (7-7) and scored on Joe Mauer's single for a 3-1 lead.

Los Angeles slugger Albert Pujols homered in the eighth, and the Angels closed to 5-4 when Andrelton Simmons scored on shortstop Ehire Adrianza's throwing error in the ninth. But Brandon Kintzler got Martin Maldonado to bounce into a double play for his 22nd save.

Federer, Djokovic benefit from Wimbledon retirements

LONDON (AP)—Novak Djokovic’s first-round match at Wimbledon lasted all of 40 minutes Tuesday. Roger Federer’s, which was next in the All England Club’s main stadium, went 43.

When two of tennis’ biggest stars crossed paths after both advanced when opponents stopped playing because of pre-existing injuries, they kidded each other about a way to try to make it up to the fans.

“We had a little joke about it in the locker room,” Djokovic recounted, “saying we should maybe play a practice set on the Centre Court, have the crowd stay.”

The short workdays for the two were quite similar.

Djokovic led 6-3, 2-0 when Martin Klizan retired with a left leg problem that has bothered him for about two months; Federer was ahead 6-3, 3-0 when Alexandr Dolgoplov quit because of a painful right ankle he first twisted last month.

Those still go into the books as wins, allowing Federer to collect his 85th at Wimbledon, breaking a tie with Jimmy Connors for the most in the Open era. Djokovic picked up his 234th match victory at all majors, moving ahead of Connors and alone into second place in history, behind only Federer’s 315.

But the way the afternoon went meant Centre Court spectators who paid 56

pounds (more than \$70) per ticket, some of them waiting in line for hours, got only brief glimpses of seven-time champion Federer or three-time champion Djokovic. They did, however, have the opportunity to watch a pair of top women, current No. 1 Angelique Kerber and former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki, win full-length matches.

“I feel for the crowd. They’re there to watch good tennis. Proper tennis. At least they see the two of us, who gave it all they had. They saw other players that tried, at least,” Federer said. “It’s unfortunate that it happened.”

Two other men also stopped mid-match Tuesday, 19th-seeded Feliciano Lopez (left foot) and Janko Tipsarevic (right leg), bringing the first-round retirement total to seven. That equals 2008 for the most by men in the first round during the 50 editions of Wimbledon in the Open era.

It sparked discussion about whether Grand Slam tournaments should change their rules to allow players to still receive prize money if they withdraw before an event. That’s a system being employed on a trial basis this season on the ATP Tour - which doesn’t run



Djokovic and Federer all said they would like to see the majors follow the ATP’s lead.

“A player should not go on court if he knows he (can) not finish. The question is: Did they truly believe they were going to finish? If they did, I think it’s OK that they walk on court. Otherwise, I feel they should give up the spot,” Federer said. “The ATP has adjusted its rule, but maybe the Slams should ... look at what they could do for the players to make it just a little bit easier.”

At Centre Court on Tuesday, Federer and Djokovic had an easy go of things. Kerber, last year’s runner-up to Serena Williams at the All England Club, had more to do to get past Irina Falconi of the U.S. 6-4, 6-4, and Wozniacki, a two-time U.S. Open finalist, needed three full sets to edge Timea Babos 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

But it was the short men’s matches that had everyone talking.

103 from 8 countries join Tagaman 51.50

A pack of 103 athletes from eight countries were led by Alesandr Dorovskikh of Russia in the 2017 Tagaman 51.50 Triathlon last June 24 on Saipan.

Dorovskikh finished the race in 2:12:01.8, followed closely by first female finisher Manami Iijima of Guam, who finished in 2:12:52.1.

Participating athletes from Korea, Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, USA and The Marianas took to the challenge with picture perfect weather conditions for the swim, bike, run event.

The race began at 6am with 1.5K swim leg at Kanoa Resort Saipan, the official hotel of the event. By 7am, bikers began transitioning at

Mina’chom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe and made the 40K bike course to Banzai and back. The 10K run was from Mina’chom Atdao along the lagoon-hugging Beach Road to the Carolinian Utt in Garapan and back.

“A beautiful day for a beautiful race,” said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “The athletes had a safe and enjoyable race, and we are very pleased with the results of the MVA’s partnership with Northern Marianas Cycling Federation and Triathlon Association of the CNMI in organizing the event. Most especially, we

thank all our sponsors and supporters who helped make it a success.”

The Tagaman Triathlon is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media coverage for The Marianas.

“We’re glad everything worked perfect and according to plan,” said Ricky Castro, TRAC president. “Just like a symphony, every piece matters to produce beautiful score; the same goes with Tagaman Triathlon.”

Platinum sponsors are Kanoa Resort & Spa, the official hotel of Tagaman Triathlon, T Galleria and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Gold sponsors are Tan Holdings, Islander Rent-a-Car, IT&E, Brabu Pharmacy, and MARPAC. Silver sponsors are Bridge Capital, LLC; Imperial Pacific International, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Triple J Wholesale, and Marianas Medical Center. Bronze sponsors are Let’s Go! Tour, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hertz Rent a Car, and RNV Forex. Event supporters include the departments of Public Safety, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public Works (Road and Grounds), DPS Boating and Traffic, Division of Parks and Grounds, Marianas Health Services, Elliot Systems, and Hawaiian Rock Products. (MVA)

SAIPAN

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eraged between 80 to 90 individuals per day.

“The children are very enthusiastic as they actively participate in every drills. You can see from their faces that they are enjoying the camp and are excited meeting new friends,” Villaflor

said. “They look forward to the next day of the camp after each session has been completed. We even have participants who are here on Saipan just for their summer vacation and they decided to join the camp to have fun and learn.”

Jessica Ortizo, who enrolled her son and daughter—Mark and Kaye—in the camp, said

it’s nice to see her children doing something worthwhile during summer vacation instead of staying home.

“If they will stay home, they will just play with their gadgets and watch TV. Every year, I look for a way to have my children spend their summer break to something that would benefit them, like this

summer camp,” Jessica said.

Meanwhile, SSS would like to thank the Public School System and the Food and Nutrition Services for providing meals to each camp participant after every session. The camp organizer also acknowledged the support of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and all volunteer coaches/players.

SSC

From Page 28

ing age group champions Kento Akimaru and Jinnosuke Suzuki), logged eight PBTs. Villacrusis and Boyer made two in the men’s open 200m individual medley with the former timing in at 2:28.93 to surpass his PBT of 2:31.65. Boyer logged 2:44.70, nearly five seconds faster than his previous PBT of 2:49.38. Jinju and Lennosuke also did the same event in the 13 to 14 age group and the former’s 3:03.12 broke her PBT of 3:05.51, while the latter timed in at 2:28.45—over two seconds better than his old mark (2:31.16).

Lennosuke got a PBT, too in the 400m freestyle with his 4:39.04 eclipsing his 4:43.08, while Taiyo and Jinju also had a pair of PBTs in the first session of the tournament in the 11 to 12 and 13 to 14 age groups. Taiyo bagged PBTs of 5:22.97 (from 6:08.16) in the 400m freestyle and 31.84 seconds (from 32.46 seconds) in the 50m freestyle, while Jinju’s second PBT came also in the 50m freestyle as she registered 32.21 seconds (from 32.60 seconds).

In the second session, SSC swimmers notched five PBTs. Four of them came from Taiyo as he posted 34.66 seconds in the 50m butterfly, 1:28.27 in the 100m backstroke, 43.63

seconds in the 50m breaststroke, and 2:34.59 in the 200m freestyle. Jinie made the other one with her 1:42.07 in the 100m butterfly in the girls 11 to 12 division.

For the third session, Lennosuke handed SSC two PBTs with his 1:19.25 (from 1:21.16) in the 100m breaststroke and 2:06.02 (from 2:10.42) in the 200m freestyle. Boyer contributed one after logging 2:18.59 (from 2:19.34) in the 200m freestyle, too.

Taiyo returned for the fourth session and got three more PBTs: 2:25.80 (from 2:30.29) in the 200m butterfly; 1:37.47 (from 1:41.79) in the 100m breaststroke; and

1:10.62 (from 1:11.62) in the 100m freestyle. Lennosuke claimed two more with his 2:35.82 (from 2:40.30) in the 200m butterfly and 1:14.28 (from 1:16.83) in the 100m backstroke, while Villacrusis and Boyer both gained PBTs in the 100m backstroke, too, after recording 1:13.94 (from 1:20.59) and 1:19.32 (from 1:18.67), respectively.

For the final session of the tournament, Lennosuke closed out with two more PBTs, while Jinju and Villacrusis made one each. Lennosuke marked PBTs in the 200m breaststroke with his 2:59.26 (from 3:00.70) and 100m freestyle (58.33 seconds from 58.68). Jinju also swam in the 100m freestyle and her

1:09.66 was a minute faster than her old PBT of 1:10.66, while Villacrusis got his last PBT in the 50m freestyle after posting 27.02 seconds (from 27.05 second).

Meanwhile, SSC finished at No. 8 overall after collecting 230 points. Points were awarded based on how each swimmer finished in their races and the team’s performance in the relays. Hawaii Swimming Club-Oahu ruled the competition with its 1,148, while Premier Aquatics and Kamehameha Swim Club rounded out the Top 3 after gaining 1,068 and 656 points. SSC finished ahead of majority of the swim clubs in Hawaii.

major—and lets someone who lost in qualifying take the spot in the main draw of an injured player.

The theory behind that setup: Players who are injured won’t step on court simply to collect their prize money as an entrant, before calling it a day without finishing the match.

“Even if I had a torn muscle today, and the doctor says, ‘You shouldn’t go on court, you have serious damage to risk,’ I could have faked it, stayed there for two less games, and still picked up the paycheck,” said Tipsarevic, who stopped while trailing 5-0 after only 12 minutes against Jared Donaldson of the U.S.

A first-round loser at Wimbledon earns 35,000 pounds (about \$45,000).

“Unless you’re (in the) top 10 ... it’s significant money,” said Dolgoplov, who is ranked 84th.

Tipsarevic, Dolgoplov,

OL'ACES

From Page 28

second half to ease their way to the semifinals. Dean Blake led the Ol’Aces’ demolition of Kagman after scoring 16 points, while Jeff Castro and K.J. Kabiriel also finished in twin digits with 12 and 10, respectively. Four other Ol’Aces players combined for 33 more points and their outputs were enough to outgun the entire Kagman Rollers crew. Jeremy Agulto paced Kagman with his 10 markers and only four other players made it to the board for the eliminated squad.

Meanwhile, after ousting Kagman Rollers, the Ol’Aces will face the winner of the 670 Sonics XVII-Natibu Warriors playoff match, which is set for tomorrow at 6:30pm. Also scheduled for tomorrow is the 670 Sonics XVI versus Ol’Aces Elite at 5:30pm in the battle for the third semis berth, while NMI/DYS Rollers and

Mt. Carmel School collided in the second game last night for the second semis ticket.

First Game

Ol’Aces 87 – Blake 16, Castro 12, Kabiriel 10, Castillo 9, Onopwy 8, Santos 8, Siech 8, Manglona 4, Bondoc 4.

Kagman Rollers 24 – Agulto 10, Duenas 6, Cruz 3, Arceo 3, Rabauliman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-8, 46-11, 65-18, 87-24.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	49	35	.583	—
New York	44	38	.537	4
Tampa Bay	44	41	.518	5½
Baltimore	40	43	.482	8½
Toronto	38	45	.458	10½
Central Division				
Cleveland	44	38	.537	—
Kansas City	43	40	.518	1½
Minnesota	43	40	.518	1½
Detroit	37	45	.451	7
Chicago	37	46	.446	7½
West Division				
Houston	57	27	.679	—
Los Angeles	43	45	.489	16
Seattle	41	44	.482	16½
Texas	40	44	.476	17
Oakland	36	48	.429	21
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	50	34	.595	—
Atlanta	40	42	.488	9
New York	38	45	.458	11½
Miami	37	45	.451	12
Philadelphia	28	54	.341	21
Central Division				
Milwaukee	46	40	.535	—
Chicago	41	42	.494	3½
St. Louis	40	43	.482	4½
Pittsburgh	38	46	.452	7
Cincinnati	36	47	.434	8½
West Division				
Los Angeles	56	29	.659	—
Arizona	52	32	.619	3½
Colorado	49	37	.570	7½
San Diego	35	48	.422	20
San Francisco	33	52	.388	23

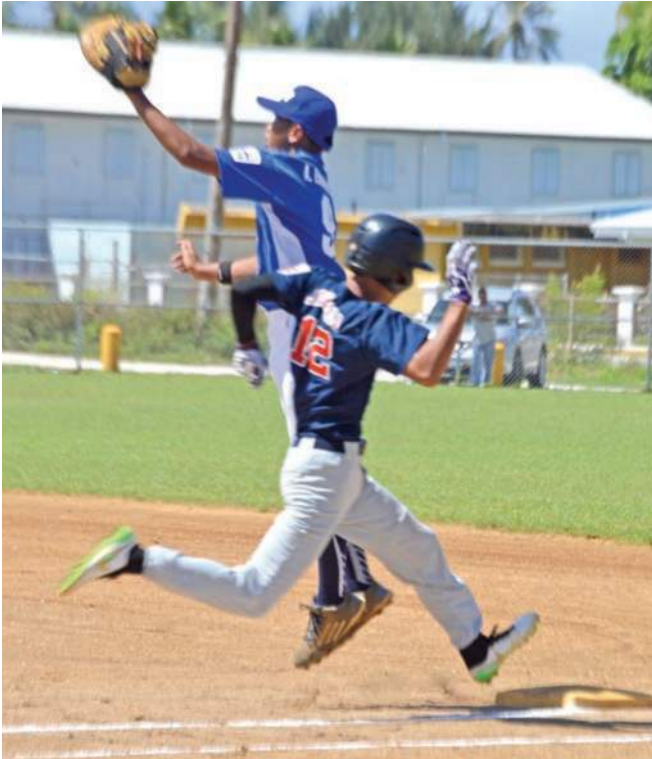
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The CNMI Senior All-Stars' Spencer Dickinson gets ready to pitch against Guam during their elimination round game in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament held late last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



CNMI Senior All-Stars' Ace Evangelista, left, leaps for a catch, while a Guam runner attempts to step on first base safely.



A Guam runner scores the first run in the tournament.



A CNMI Junior All-Stars batter leans in for a bunt.



The Chinese-Taipei pitcher gestures to his catcher before throwing from the mound.



A Hong Kong pitcher hurls during their game against the CNMI Junior League All-Stars.



The Philippine Junior League Team manager gives instructions to his players before the start of the fifth inning of their game against the CNMI.



A Philippine Junior League Team batters waits for a pitch during their match against Hong Kong.



Hayward
chooses Celtics
over Jazz, Heat

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Spangenberg,
6 pitchers lead
Padres to 1-0
win over Indians

PAGE 25



28 THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces ease way to semifinals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Coby Santos, 8, challenges the shot of Kagman Rollers' Jeremy Agulto during the second quarter of their playoff game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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their team away further at the break, 46-11.

At the resumption of the match, the Ol'Aces played

no let up on defense, limiting the hapless Kagman Rollers to four field goals in the entire

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The Ol'Aces booked the first semis ticket in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after cruising past Kagman Rollers, 87-24, at the start of the playoff round yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The No. 1 seed Ol'Aces held the last playoff qualifier Kagman without a field goal in the first eight minutes and change of the second quarter to break the game wide open en route to the easy win—the team's 12th in as many games after sweeping the round-robin elimination.

Before its meltdown in the pivotal second canto, Kagman was just facing a manageable 11-point deficit after the first quarter, 8-19. However, the Ol'Aces showed no mercy in the second period, as it pressured Kagman right from the



backcourt to force several turnovers, which the former turned into baskets.

With the Ol'Aces' defense working and their offense also on point, the pennant champions were able to build a promising 40-8 advantage, with a little over a minute left in the first half.

A triple from Chris Arceo finally ended Kagman's silence, however, the Ol'Aces closed with 5 answered points off Brand Onopwy's back-to-back baskets and Frank Bondoc's layup to pull

Saipan Soccer School summer camp draws 180 enrollees



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Volunteer coach Jacky Lee, left, assists Beatrice Gross in performing a drill during the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Summer Camp last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

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A total of 180 signed up for Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Summer Camp at the TSL Sports Complex.

The participants in the camp that started last June 5 and will conclude tomorrow are taught the basics on basketball and soccer through the guidance of volunteer coaches. Campers were divided into two age groups with the first batch made up of participants in the U10 division and the second having individuals in the U12 category. The U10 participants have their soccer lessons from 8:30am to 10am,

while they switch courts with the U12 campers for the basketball session that run from 10am to 11:30am. Members of the CNMI Women's National Team and Girls U14 Team pools are the volunteer coaches, assisting SSS staff and a couple of coaches from Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong).

"I enjoyed both playing basketball and soccer and making new friends," said Beatrice Gross, who has been attending the camp for nearly two weeks.

The camp runs from Monday to Friday and director Cristy Villafior said they av-

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27 more PBTs for 5 SSC swimmers

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Five other Saipan Swim Club members who joined the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational combined for 27 personal best times in the tournament held over the weekend at the Veterans' Memorial Aquatic Center in Waipahu, Hawaii. Siblings Jinju and Jinie

Thompson, Taiyo Akimaru, Christian Villacrusis, and David Boyer all earned PBTs in the five sessions of the competition held from June 30 to July 2 to help SSC finish in the Top 10 in the overall standings of the 24-club field.

During the first session, the SSC members (exclud-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jinju Thompson, left, is at the starting block of one of her races in last weekend's 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational held at the Veterans' Memorial Aquatic Center in Waipahu, Hawaii.